

The feast of St. Dominic, 2014
A prayer for the safety, encouragement, and consolation of
Dominic's followers in Iraq, and those they accompany and serve.

God, come to my assistance. **R.** Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalmody: Psalm 142

Ant. Listen to my cry for help, for I am brought very low.

With my own voice I cry to the LORD;
with my own voice I beseech the LORD.
Before God I pour out my complaint,
tell of my distress in front of God.

When my spirit is faint within me,
you know my path.

As I go along this path,
they have hidden a trap for me.
I look to my right hand to see
that there is no one willing to acknowledge me.

I cry out to you, LORD,/br/>I say, You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.

Listen to my cry for help,
for I am brought very low.

Rescue me from my pursuers,
for they are too strong for me.

Lead my soul from prison,
that I may give thanks to your name.
Then the righteous shall gather around me
because you have been good to me.



Dominicans arriving at the Friars' convent, Karakosh, Nineveh Plain, Iraq

Reading

A contemplative reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (2:1-10a) and excerpts from the letters of Riccoldo Montecroce, a Dominican brother of the 13th century, who journeyed in Iraq and witnessed the suffering of the Christian community in that day.

St. Paul: *When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

(contemplative silence)

Riccoldo: *"Woe is me, for I was born to see the misery of my people! Woe is me, for I have seen such degradation of the Christian faith! Where is Tripoli, where is Acre, where are the Christian churches which were there? Where are the relics of the saints, where*

are the men and women religious who praised the Lord just like morning stars? Where are the multitudes of Christian people who were there for centuries?" (Letter 4)

(contemplative silence)

St. Paul: *And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in human wisdom but in the power of God.*

(contemplative silence)

Riccoldo: *"O Blessed Dominic, I have searched for my [sisters and] brothers....I came to a parched land and I have been scalded by the heat of the sun. I came to preach the faith, and behold I have found many books and writings on the faith but I have not found my [sisters and] brothers. 'I am searching for my brothers. Tell me where they are tending the flocks!' (Gen 37:16). And soon after, I learned that they are tending the flock no more, but are in more fertile fields, being fed by the Most Excellent Shepherd, for it was reported to me that all were killed. 'O earth, do not cover my blood!' [Job 16;18]. Do not cover the blood which has been spilled by my [sisters and] brothers. Let the tears of lament shed by prisoners come before you!" (Letter 3)*

(contemplative silence)

St. Paul: As it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

(contemplative silence)

Riccoldo: *"'Rejoice,' therefore, brothers in the Lord, 'Again I say rejoice' [Phil 4:4]. For you could have fled, you could have left the city...but you wished to remain in the city to strengthen others in their faith. Can it be that wickedness conquers wisdom? Surely, wisdom conquers wickedness, and you will strengthen us in our faith just as I firmly hope....I truly believe that you are the saints and martyrs of God, for you were sent by our superiors to Acre and in service to obedience you were filled for the good of obedience. Indeed, you remained in order to strengthen others in their faith." (Letter 4, referring to the Dominicans who stayed with their people in Acre and then were martyred).*

(contemplative silence)

Response

We call down the witness of all of our holy ones – saints of Iraq, and saints of the order. We ask for protection for those who suffer violence and injustice in Iraq, an end to all oppression and hatred, and the creation of a new world of peace with justice for all of the people of God and God's creation.

We honor these women and men with the Aramaic title "Mar," which connotes saint and martyr, holy one and witness.

Response: Pray for us, bring us peace.

Mar Steven

Mary Bhenam and Mar Sara

Mar Dominic

Mar Rita

Mar Catherine of Siena

Mar Charbel

Mar Teresa of Avila

Mar Jordan of Saxony

Mar Marzena

Mar Diana

Mar Rafqa

Mar Martin de Porres

Mar Bashmonee

Mar Pierre Claverie and all
Algerian martyrs

Mar Joan d' Arc

Mar Susan and all of the martyrs of the
Assyrian & Armenian massacre

Mar Catherine de Ricci

Mar Matti Mar Thomas of Aquin

Mar Harmoz

Mar Vincent Ferrer

Mar Yakoop

Mar Rose of Lima

Mar Youhanna

Mar Thaer, Mar Wasim and all martyrs
of Sayeedat al-Najat

Mar Peter of Verona

Mar Louis

Mar Hyacinth Besson

Mar George

Mar Paulos

Mar Margaret of Castello

Mar Jonah

Mar Riccoldo de Montecroce

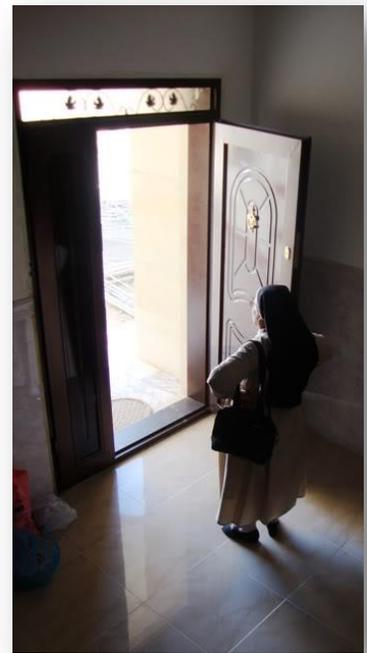
The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

O God of peace and goodness,
We, your people, with Dominic
and all the saints and martyrs and holy people
whose lives bear witness to your goodness, truth, and mercy:
Hear our prayer for the people of Iraq who are suffering this night.

They have suffered long, O God.
With them we lament the failures
of principalities and powers
to find the way to replace their suffering,
displacement, and humiliation
with peace, justice and human dignity.

Awake our hearts more profoundly to their suffering
So that we may raise our voices with theirs in a cry so powerful



*Sister Mary Paul at the door of
Ankawa convent.*

as to cause justice to rain down from the heavens for them,
and for all people who suffer injustice wherever it is found.

We ask this of you Creator, who with the Son our Redeemer
and the life-renewing breath of your Spirit,
are the only cause of our life: a Trinity of persons, making
us one with you and all of the creation. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

In Dominic we claim to be,
through all the world one family,
O praise God, laudare!
A living heritage we share,
of study common life and prayer.

Refrain: Laudare, Alleluia, Benedicere,
Alleluia! Praedicare!

To east and west to south and north;
O sisters, brothers now go forth
Be a blessing, benedicere!
Throughout the universe release,
God's reign of justice, love and peace! **R.**

How beautiful upon the earth
the feet of those who bring God's word
Preach the Gospel, praedicare!
The path we walk is holy ground,
the word we speak a holy sound. **R.**

■ Mary Frances Fleischaker, OP



Disputatio.

Acknowledgements

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Thank you to Reham Yakoo for her assistance with the litany of saints.