

# News from Fanjeaux

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## S.H.O.P. ASKED TO HELP SOLVE MYSTERY OF 500 HUNDRED YEAR OLD DOMINICAN MANUSCRIPT

There are some aspects of the work of the SHOP Association that are completely unforeseeable and these tend to be both challenging and exciting. Recently a request was received from Connecticut College Library USA to help in the process of identifying the provenance and dating of a manuscript in their possession which has never really been studied as it would deserve. This was the request received from the librarian:

The manuscript was described in the 1935 Seymour De Ricci, "Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts." No history or provenance came with the book, and although there are a few catalogue numbers pencilled in it, there are no inscriptions which would suggest who owned it before 1860. I am hoping, however, to puzzle out some of its story through the contents. From the saints chosen for inclusion in the feasts of the saints, I believe it was made for the use of Dominican nuns in France. Because of the inclusion of St Louis, The Feast of the Crown of Thorns and St Romain, I wonder if it cannot be attached to a convent in or near Rouen.

SHOP replied: The manuscript is in fact a processional, and is certainly Dominican. Rouen seems quite likely, given the inclusion of St Romanus, but from other points of view as well; this monastery, which was under the patronage of St Matthew, founded by four nuns from Montargis in 1261, received its charter from King (later Saint) Louis of France in 1269. The feast of the crown of thorns was introduced into France by St Louis who brought relics of the crown of thorns back from the Holy Land. The inclusion of St Antoninus is not surprising as he is a Dominican saint, so would have always figured in Dominican calendars. He was canonised in 1523, so the MS might be supposed to be post that date. But if it were late 17<sup>th</sup> century, one might expect St Rose of Lima to be included in the list of saints. She was canonised in 1671 and devotion to her was very popular amongst Dominican nuns at that time, so the Connecticut MS could well be earlier – possibly between 1523 and 1670.



**STUDY THE HISTORY OF DOMINICAN WOMEN**

**FOLLOW THE S.H.O.P. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE**

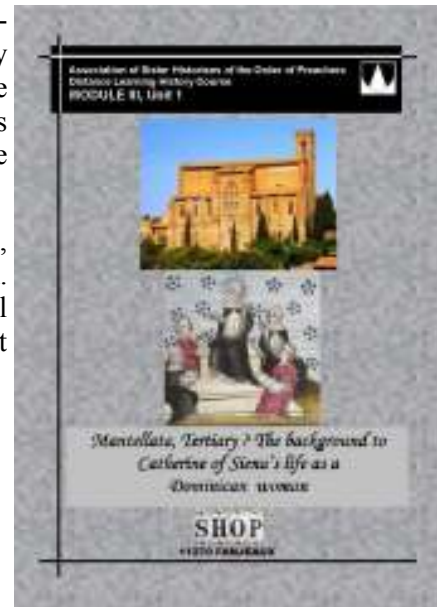
## ST CATHERINE OF SIENA - THE DOMINICAN DIMENSION

Who were the *mantellate*? When was the term tertiary first used? What was the Order of Penance and did St Dominic have anything to do with it? What were Catherine of Siena's links with the Dominican Order? These are the subjects dealt with in this first unit of the new module of the SHOP distance learning course in the history of Dominican women.

Unit 1 (there will be three in all) has just been sent out to students in English and Spanish versions; French is to follow shortly. It seemed important at this stage of the course - having covered the beginnings of Dominican cloistered nuns in the 13th century, when they were of course the only Dominican women - to try to start to unpack the history of the "Third Order", which was certainly not called that in St Catherine's day, and is no longer so in the 21st century. This history is indeed complex, but its ramifications are dealt with quite clearly in an article by the late Fr André Duval, for many years archivist of the French province. SHOP is publishing this article in English for the first time.

Also included is the Rule of Master Munio de Zamora, promulgated in 1285, which is much talked of, but little known. Future course units, due to be distributed in January and April 2012, will deal with the ways in which St Catherine lived out Dominican values and how she expressed them in her writings.

**To join the 70+ students already enrolled on the course—each one works at his or her own pace, no deadlines! - contact [shop.fanjeaux@orange.fr](mailto:shop.fanjeaux@orange.fr)**



### A SHOP representative invited to speak at Toulouse forum on Internet

On Saturday 15th October Sr Barbara of SHOP joined a panel of speakers at the Catholic University of Toulouse at a regional gathering of the "Diocesan Service for Unbelief and Faith", which fosters dialogue with non-believers. The theme of the day was "Internet –for good or for bad?". Sr Barbara presented the pedagogical use that SHOP makes of electronic resources in its distance learning courses. The director of the Toulouse School of Journalism spoke of the need for some means of effacing erroneous material from the web, and for educating the young in the appropriate use of this medium. It's not just a question of how to get on line, but how to use Internet appropriately.



### FANJEAUX LOSES ITS OLDEST (dominican) INHABITANT

Mère Marie Réginald of the Dominican Congregation of The Holy Family (Passe-Prest) left us on 22nd October 2011, aged 101. She entered religious life in 1935 and first came to Fanjeaux in 1944 to help run a home for girls. She was later to be prioress of the Fanjeaux community which occupies the 14th century Dominican convent from which the friars were expelled at the French Revolution. There had been a village celebration of her 100th birthday in 2010, when generations of local inhabitants gathered to share memories. *Requiescat in pace...*

## 150th Anniversary of the death of Fr Lacordaire (1802-1861) - commemorations at Sorèze (1)



It was during one of his stays at Toulouse in the early 1850's for the refoundation of a Dominican convent in the city that was home to the first ever convent of the Order in the 13th century, that Lacordaire received the offer of the school at Sorèze in April 1854. He accepted and from then until his death he devoted himself almost exclusively to the education of the young. Before the French Revolution the school at Sorèze belonged to the Benedictine Order and had been a prestigious military academy. Lacordaire favoured a broad based curriculum in the arts and sciences, classical and modern literature; there was a swimming pool, which was a great rarity at the time. He was known to lead school excursions up into the neighbouring Black Mountains. Lacordaire served on the town council of Sorèze from 1855 to 1859, as a liberal Catholic opposed to the imperial regime of Napoleon III.

*The white marble statue of Lacordaire with a pupil of Sorèze that now stands in the courtyard of the school which is now a luxury hotel!*

It was in this neo-romanesque style church, built in 1862 on a plot of land donated by Fr Lacordaire shortly before his death, that a commemorative mass was celebrated on Sunday 2nd October 2011. The liturgy, which was broadcast live on the French national TV network, was a very Dominican occasion. Fr Gilbert Narcisse, Prior Provincial of Toulouse, Fr Augustin Laffay, Prior of the Convent of Toulouse, and Fr Guy Bedouelle of Fribourg, who gave the homily, concelebrated with the parish priest. Fr Bedouelle spoke of Lacordaire's involvement in the political life of his day, commenting that there were those who reproached him with being too active in this domain, and others with not doing enough. Having struggled to restore the Order of Preachers in France in the 1840's, having served very briefly as a member of the French National Assembly after the 1848 revolution, Lacordaire sought to withdraw from the fray—including quarrels in the Order—hence the offer of Sorèze with its quiet rural location was very attractive to him.



There will be a further day of celebration on Sunday November 20th, when the Archbishop of Albi, Mgr Jean Legrez o.p., will celebrate a mass to be broadcast nationwide on French radio. The same day there will be a lecture given by Fr Laffay on the theme of "Lacordaire and Education", plus an exhibition and a concert.

In accordance with his wishes, Lacordaire was buried in the school chapel at Sorèze; his remains were transferred to the parish church on 16 October 1992, on account of the change of status of the school, and major building work. It is no longer a school, the buildings being divided between a hotel and a museum/visitor centre. The Dominican Order refused an offer to have Lacordaire's remains transferred to Paris, preferring to respect his desire to remain at Sorèze.

1. Sorèze, in the Tarn department, is About 40 km to the north-east of Fanjeaux.





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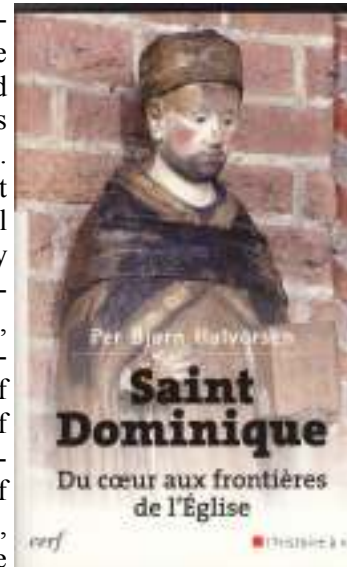
The Association of Sister Historians of the Order of Preachers is defined in its statutes as: “a resource for documentation, communication and formation at the service of Dominican women, religious and lay, through the study of their histories.”

**NB NEW POSTAL ADDRESS FOR SHOP; WE  
HAVEN'T MOVED, BUT AFTER 1,000 YEARS,  
FANJEAUX FINALLY GOT STREET NUMBERS!**

## Book News

**PER BJORN HALVORSEN, *Saint Dominique—Du Coeur aux frontières de l'Eglise*, Editions du Cerf, 2011**

Summer 2011 saw the publication of a wonderful new study of St Dominic. As yet available only in Norwegian and French, it is to be hoped that translators will soon be at work to make this most interesting work more widely accessible. One might at first wonder what could justify yet another book on St Dominic, but the original contribution of this study lies in the very “northern-ness” of its author and his perspective. Indeed Per Bjorn Halvorsen (1939-2007), until his untimely death a Dominican of the convent at Oslo, writes at length about the travels of St Dominic and Bishop Diego in the North of Europe; he brings greater precision to the question of the route they followed. A chapter of some forty pages is devoted to these journeys, and there is a long concluding section on the arrival of the Dominican Order in Scandinavia, or Dacia as the province is known. The book contains wonderful photographs of these northern convents that are so little known to us, and of which many survive, even if no longer inhabited by friars.



A lovely little book of spirituality by a Dominican nun, **Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart Sawicki** of West Springfield Monastery USA, also came out since the last edition of our Newsletter. It has the enigmatic title of *The Hummer and the Hummed*, and contains contemplative reflections on the nature of prayer. It is copiously illustrated with photographs—yes, of course—of a humming bird. Available from Amazon.com.



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