

News from Fanjeaux

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S.H.O.P.

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N° 7

AUTUMN

2010

Pope Benedict XVI pays homage to St Catherine of Siena



At the general audience at the Vatican on November 24th, the Holy Father spoke at some length on the exemplarity of St Catherine of Siena for today's world:

"A true and authentic spiritual family was built up around such a strong and genuine personality: people fascinated by the authoritative morality of this young woman of an elevated style of life, and at times impressed also by the mystical phenomena they witnessed, such as the frequent ecstasies. Many placed themselves at her service and above all considered it a privilege to be guided spiritually by Catherine. They called her "mamma," because as spiritual children they received the nourishment of the spirit.

Today also the Church receives great benefit from the spiritual maternity of so many women, consecrated and lay, who nourish in souls the thought of God, reinforce people's faith and orient Christian life toward ever higher summits. "Son I say to you and call you," wrote Catherine addressing one of her spiritual sons, the monk Giovanni Sabbatini, "inasmuch as I give you birth by continuous prayers and desire in the presence of God, just as a mother gives birth to a son" (Epistolario, Lettera n. 141: To don Giovanni de' Sabbatini). She would usually address the Dominican friar Bartolomeo de Dominici with these words: "Most beloved and very dear brother and son in Christ sweet Jesus." (translation by Zenit.org where the whole text can be read).

The S.H.O.P. library at Fanjeaux is placed under the patronage of St Catherine of Siena; this fine wooden statue (probably walnut) was recently installed in a place of honour. It has an interesting history as its first home was the novitiate house of the French Dominican province at Amiens, founded in 1880. This convent had to be abandoned at the beginning of the Second World War when the young friars were called up for army service. The statue found a home at the Monastery of Dominican nuns at Bouvines, also in the North of France, which was founded in 1945—just after the war. This monastery closed in 2003 and St Catherine crossed the border to join the nuns at the monastery of Herne in Belgium. This is now in its turn closing and the statue has found a new home in St Dominic's village of Fanjeaux.



STUDY THE HISTORY OF DOMINICAN WOMEN

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

FIRST YEAR OF S.H.O.P. HISTORY COURSE

The SHOP history course is proving popular with students in various parts of the world. Over two hundred enrolled this year for the two Modules that have been on offer in 2010. They are *The Beginnings of the Dominican Order* and *Dominican Sisters in the early years of the Order* ; each module consists of three course units that are sent out to students at regular intervals. These modules are available in English, Spanish and French. The covers can be seen below.

A number of students are sending in regular written assignments that show careful study and reflection around the course material.

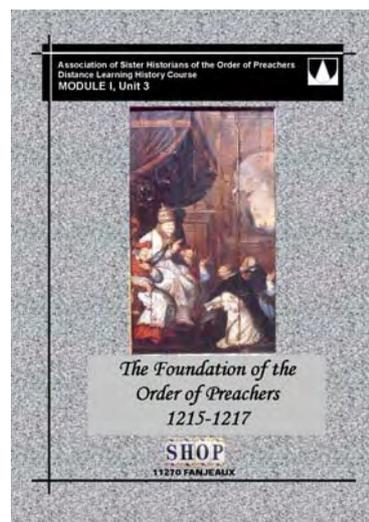
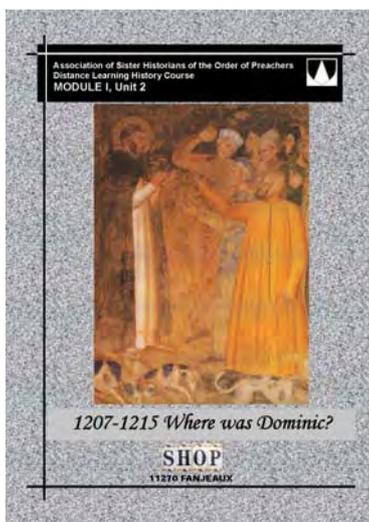
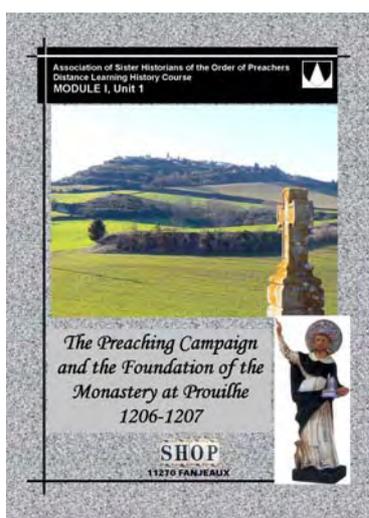
New modules in preparation

Plans are now moving forward to extend the range of courses on offer and sisters are already working on them. Hopefully three more modules will become available between now and 2012. We rely on sisters with expert knowledge in particular fields to offer their services by producing course material. A fee of course will be paid. So please get in touch if you can offer either an individual course unit or even a whole module on some aspect of the history of Dominican women.

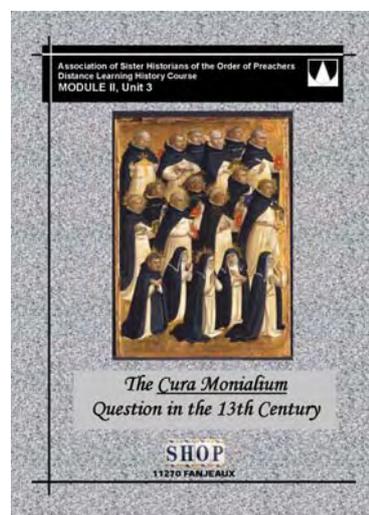
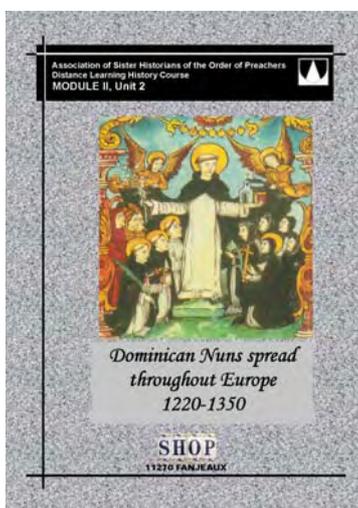
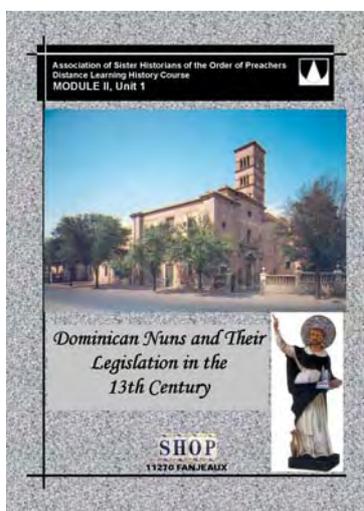
The first two modules will of course continue to be available.

The Next Modules :

- St Catherine of Siena an innovatory model of Dominican life for women**
- The arrival of Dominican Sisters in the New World—Central and South America**
- The Restoration of the Order in Europe in the 19th century—Lacordaire and others**



MODULE I - *The Beginnings of the Dominican Order*
MODULE II - *Dominican Sisters in the early years of the Order*



NEWS OF OUR STUDENTS

Sr Renee makes profession in the West Indies

Pictured here looking radiant on 8th September—the day of her first profession as a Dominican sister—is Sr Renee Hall, a member of the Etrépany Congregation in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. From the video clips received in Fanjeaux it seems to be a very lively ceremony with singing by children attending Dominican schools on the island. Sr Renee, together with fellow novice Sr Carla Thomas has been following two modules of the S.H.O.P. history course as part of her novitiate programme. As she also teaches history in school, it is doubly helpful to her. We wish her well in her Dominican future!



TO JOIN THE HISTORY COURSE, ACCESS AN INFORMATION LEAFLET AND ENROLMENT FORM ON <http://shop.op.org>

The House of Formation in Mexico

These sister musicians hail from the house of formation for Dominican nuns in Mexico. In fact it is a federal novitiate which offers a common programme to all the op monasteries in that country.



Sr Lorena Barba, novice mistress, wrote to S.H.O.P in Fanjeaux saying that she would love to be able to follow our distance learning history course, but that they were short of money. Although S.H.O.P. doesn't have too much to spare either, we said "No problem" go ahead and enrol and we will trust to Providence to fix something. In fact shortly afterwards a donation was received from the Dominican missionary sisters of Bruges in Belgium, which more than compensated.

In her turn, Sr Lorena, wishing to express gratitude sent us a beautiful chasuble hand-made by the sisters. And what is more it did not come by post—it was passed from Dominican hand to Dominican hand between the Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe and Fanjeaux—almost certainly via Rome, but even now we are not too sure about the itinerary it took!



DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT S.H.O.P. IF YOU NEED HELP WITH FEES—SPONSORSHIP MAY BE POSSIBLE!



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**Become a member of
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**It is easy! Send us a note of
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receive our newsletter
regularly and be informed of
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can also make use of the
facilities—accommodation
and library — at Fanjeaux.**

**All donations are most
gratefully received — they
go towards acquiring new
books for the library devoted
to the history of Dominican
women.**

**For donations and subscriptions :
Sœurs Historiennes Ordre des Prêcheurs
La Banque Postale, Montpellier— please
contact us for details.**

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.”

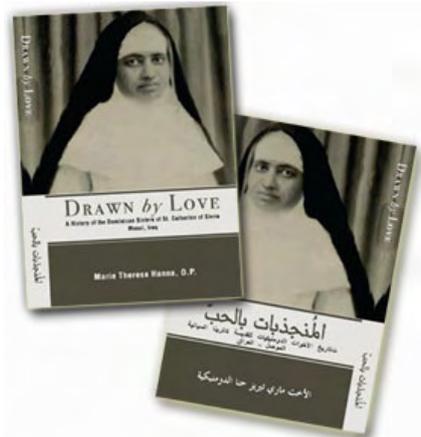
Book News

Dominican Sisters in Iraq

New book, 'Drawn by Love,' tells story of congregation

For the first time in its 133-year history, the small congregation of Iraqi Dominican sisters is sharing the compelling story of their community's founding and unfolding in a turbulent region, under unusual ecclesial circumstances. In a new book titled, “*Drawn by Love: A History of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena*,” Sr Marie-Thérèse Hanna, OP, former prioress of the congregation, tells the story of their founding as a lay community at the end of the 19th century, to present day Iraq where the Catholic sisters are striving to rebuild their country even as the Christian minority is being persecuted in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion seven years ago.

According to the book, the religious community was founded in Mosul in 1877 by women of diverse Eastern Catholic and non-Catholic traditions (Chaldean, Syriac, Orthodox, Armenian, and Nestorian), under the guidance of the Dominican mission in Mesopotamia. Published in English and Arabic, the book includes 20 pages of photographs and a map illustrating the sisters' mission areas. The book will be available December 3rd from Sor Juana Press and through the Adrian Dominicans' [Weber Shop](#). Visit the [Sor Juana Press](#) web site to see more images and read an excerpt from the book..



SUMMER VISTORS TO FANJEAUX

This year, visitors from Australia were particularly numerous in Fanjeaux—it is truly wonderful that Dominican family members undertake such a long and costly journey to visit the places associated with our founder. It was especially nice to meet S.H.O.P. history course student Margaret Luttrell who is a lay teacher at a Dominican school in South Australia. She visited with a group of enthusiastic young people from Cabra Dominican College, Cumberland Park SA.

We're on the web!
<http://shop.op.org>