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*News from Fanjeaux*  
**(Sister Historians of the Order of Preachers)**  
**Newsletter n° 1, autumn 2007**

*A place to call home*

Since June 1<sup>st</sup> the SHOP library project has been located in the rue des Fargues at Fanjeaux, in close proximity to the house of St Dominic, the old convent and the parish church. This has made it possible to begin gathering books and publications of all kinds concerning the history of Dominican women throughout the ages.



In 110 square metres, there is room enough to house the books, office space plus accommodation for three sisters. The collection already comprises over 1,000 volumes, plus documentation of various kinds and iconographical material.



*A new collaborator*

Jean Reimer o.p. of Grand Rapids Congregation, Michigan U.S.A. arrived to join the SHOP project at Fanjeaux in September. She is a most welcome addition to the team: Jean knows the local scene well, having previously spent 3 years at Prouilhe, her Spanish language skills are a great asset.

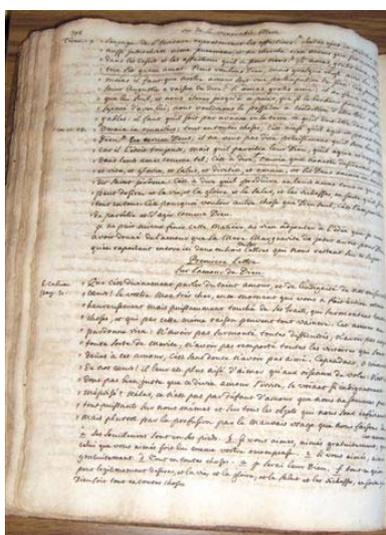


## *A Website*

We were lucky to have the help of Fr Michael O'Rourke (U.S.A.) in setting up a website for us at <http://fanjeauxproject.op.org> – this is very modest for the moment, but we hope that it will become a real tool for networking among Dominican sister historians, to help locate source materials and inform each other about recent publications. Please let us know what your current on-going projects are

## *Virtual archiving*

Digital technology makes it possible to work on archives in places other than the location in which the original archive is housed. In this way, at SHOP, we are currently working on manuscripts relating to the early history of Prouilhe, housed at the Archives Départementales de l'Aude at Carcassonne that we have on CD Rom. Also on a 500 page eighteenth century manuscript biography of the foundress of the Dominican Monastère de la Croix in Paris, which Sr Barbara photographed at the Evry monastery which has recently acquired this valuable historical resource.



*The life of Mère Marguerite de Jésus, foundress of the first Dominican monastery in Paris, 1636 – one of SHOP'S current projects. Volunteers are needed to help transcribe this manuscript – it can be done e-mail – do you know anyone who could help?*

## *Other projects*

The principal project for this jubilee year of the foundation of the first Dominican community at Prouilhe is the compilation of a bibliography on the history of the monastery, hopefully embracing as much as possible of what has been written about this foundation throughout the 800 years of its existence. This is in the spirit of the SHOP project, which is to provide tools for those interested in our history.

## *Visitors*

In its brief history, SHOP has been happy to welcome Dominican sisters: Judith (Bethany, Germany), Mary O'Driscoll, (Cabra, Ireland) Patricia Dougherty, (San Rafael, California) Margaret Scharf, (Western Australia) Connie Schoen, (Dominican Leadership Conference, U.S.A.) and friars Elie Pascal, Liam Walsh (Ireland), Jerry Stookey (U.S.A.) and Guy Bedouelle (France). This week Sr Ruth Caspar o.p. (Columbus, Ohio) arrives to spend a week's retreat with us.

Messages of support have been received from many parts of the world – recently we were pleased to hear from Blanca Guerrero, a lay Dominican in Montevideo, Uruguay.



We express our gratitude to all of those who have supported us so far with financial contributions and recommend our work to your ongoing generosity. We also renew our appeal for books and documentation of all kinds, as well as our invitation to visit us here in Fanjeaux.