



# Veritas Per Factum

Volume 1, Edition 2, June 2011

## The Truth About Confession

by Mr. David Ward, OP

The truth about Confession was spurred into existence at a formation gathering and is how I teach the basics of this sacraments to teenagers and adults.

"Confession" commonly used to describe one of the seven sacraments is a misnomer.

It necessarily includes five parts which cannot be separated since Vatican II and still be the "Sacrament of Reconciliation".

Part I is Educational and is the preparation of an informed conscience which each person of faith studies the context in which we live. Culture, business, church, family, work and personal arenas where pursued in detail because this is where God has placed us. This is the formation of conscience and is characterized by hard work and perspiration to keep us aware of an ever changing environment. Not just the bible is included but also newspapers, TV, social justice magazines, psychology, economics can be part of this as the Ten Themes of catholic social teachings are all concurrent concerns of the church and our prayer lives as God and we co-create the world together.

Part II is Examination of Conscience and is the invitation to see how we are asked to co create the world with God and included as much inspiration as the first part is perspiration in the first part. What we have done to offend God and neighbor but also what we have done to follow God is included here.

Part III is confession is often the shortest and easiest part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession of Sins is simple when all the perspiration and inspiration has taken place: \Time in the confessional with the priest is comparatively brief. The priest is the representative of the community and the "local ears" of God and participates in the sacrament of reconciliation .

Part IV Absolution is when the priest hears our remorse and our request for forgiveness he may, for the sake of community forgive our sins by the power e=invested in him by God and the Church.

Part V Penance in the church has historically has taken the longest amount of time. In the early church, it could take up to two years and include sitting in "sackcloth and ashes "outside the doors of the parish church until they could be trusted again. Currently saying some prayers in the church has been the most common form of penance.

Ultimately the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament not just of individual holiness, which it is, but also a celebration of Gods guidance thorough church and Culture in how to create a holy world and live a holy life.

## Upcoming Events

**July 9:** Dominicans Summer Picnic with 5:30 p.m. Vespers and picnic to follow in the Parish Center.

**August 10:** Novices make their Simple Profession St. Dominic Church at 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow in the basement of the church.

**September 16, 17 & 18:** Lay Dominican Annual Retreat at Loretto Heights.

## Reflections

by Mr. Bob Pickering, OP

On Saturday June 4, I made my commitment (first profession) as a Lay Dominican. It's a vocation - a calling to a new way of life. I'll be the first to admit I don't feel worthy to join Aquinas, Catherine, Martin, Congar and so many others. My spiritual director told me that's a sign of humility, so I must be on the right track!

Unlike priests and deacons in the Catholic church, we do not have an assigned ministry. We bring the Dominican charism to people around us, sharing the Gospel with people we meet in our daily lives. People who might not go to church and hear it from pulpit.

As a lay person, I come across many inactive Catholics - the largest "religious denomination" in the United States. With the decline of organized religion in our culture, widespread media coverage of abuse by a small minority, and a reputation as a conservative faith it's not a surprise some turn away. I understand... I've certainly had my own reasons to leave the church.

But I've also found many reasons to stay. I've studied scripture, theology, and the documents of the church (especially Vatican II). I'm inspired by the saints and strengthened by the sacraments. I've discovered communities who welcome my gifts and accept me as I am, even as they challenge me to become a truer disciple of Christ. Most of all, I've experienced love. The love of a God who doesn't condemn us but is always there to nurture us, shepherd us, welcome us.

So in my daily life, I seek out those who "used to be Catholic" and are still searching. I bring healing to their wounds and walk the journey with them. I do what I can to open the doors of the Church and introduce them to my friends, including my fellow Dominicans. Most of all, I pray that I can be like Christ to them - never condemning or pushing, always inviting and encouraging people to come home.

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## Footprints

by Mrs. Mickie Kilker, OP

In October of 2010, my husband and I walked in the footsteps of Dominic in Italy. I wouldn't be surprised that the pilgrim group from Denver walked on Dominic's footsteps, or at least the path, traversed by Dominic some 800 years ago. That was one walk.

In the late 1990s when I filled out a Dominican Laity prospective member form, I never realized that I would be walking a different path in life. The journey of study and praying began and the baby steps through the years lead me to the maturity stride of a professed Dominican. The footprints I follow now are of the active, ailing, and deceased members who lived or lives following the road of Dominican Spirituality.

Each day, the special spirituality is renewed by trying to walk in the footprints of the professed, simple profession, received and those in discernment. All these footprints emit grace, wisdom and being Dominican. Sometimes the footprints are deep, easy to read and then other times one needs a great tracker to point out a footprint. We were not all there in Italy following Dominic's footprints but we are all together tracking his footprints some 800 years later as Dominicans in St. Albert the Great Province, St. Dominic Chapter, Denver, Colorado. We ARE family.

## The Catholic Worker Agronomic University

by David E. Ward, OP

The Catholic Worker Agronomic University is hosting the second annual week long conference at New Hope Catholic Worker Farm July 16-24, 2011 in LaMotte, Iowa. This is one opportunity to help form a catholic conscience where social justice conversations, daily readings of the breviary and community farm fresh meals

David Ward and a Quaker, Eric Smith will be driving from Denver to attend the event outside Dubuque next month



and have two seats available. David will be teaching massage and other healing arts while others will be teaching how to make goat cheese, work a chicken tractor, harvest wild mushrooms from the forest, etc. Special presentations will be made by the theology department from Notre Dame University about Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day who are co-founders of the Catholic worker movement. The Green Revolution as Peter Maurin called it 75 years ago was in response to the Industrial Revolution

Read below for details.

**A local Catholic Worker Farm** of Colorado by the grace of God, will likely be featured in the Denver Catholic Register in the July 13th issue next month. This feature article will include pictures from the Regis/Berkeley Neighborhood Community Garden, one of fifteen community gardens designed and build by David Ward of Nice-World.org and David Braden IV of Organic Landscape Design.

**A Plow Fountain** is being constructed by a Colorado sculptor out of eight plows. David and Niced-World.org purchased the plows four years ago and commissioned the design by an African-American sculpture to "Turn Hearts, not soil, toward permaculture". We have heard it said "Beat your swords into plow shares". Now it is said "Turn your Plows into Fountains of Life". The unveiling may happen at the Regis University Garden in North Denver this Summer. It includes a Tower, Tulip bowl, and the Arm and has several interactive arenas with water being pumped, siphoned, swashed, sprayed and splashed through the plow fountain.

**"O'Picnic" Fun**

David Ward will bring some fresh vegetables from his gardens to the potluck on July 9th for the "O'Picnic". Bring your kids to learn to juggle or to make gigantic bubble even four feet long. Be ready to have some fun kids young and old.

