
The Dominican Sisters of Wanganui ♦ New Zealand



Fr. Thomas O.P., flanked by deacon, Fr. Francois Laisney, and subdeacon, Fr. Todd Anderson, places the traditional crown of thorns on the heads of the novices.



"Roses or Thorns?"



"....and Cake?" The traditional cutting of the cake after the ceremony.

Sr. Therese (in the middle) made her final profession.

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Historic Moments

Early 2012 marked a new step forward in the history of our congregation. Starting with the Feast of the Epiphany and after a preparatory retreat of eight days, Fr. Thomas O.P. clothed three postulants with the holy habit of our order (Sr. Mary Louise, Sr. Mary Johanna and Sr. Mary Thomas), donned four novices with the black professed veil (Sr. Mary Raymond O.P., Sr. Maria Lucia O.P., Sr. Mary Jacinta O.P. and Sr. Mary Anthony O.P.), and placed the bridal ring on one beaming, finally professed sister - Sr. Marie Therese O.P.

It was not only the biggest ceremony we have ever had, but also one of the last for New Zealand, for not long after, in **fulfilling what seems to be God's will, our Mother General, along with Sr. Catherine O.P., Sr. Mary Raymond O.P. and the new novices and postulants, headed for their new home in Tynong, Australia, leaving a community of nine professed sisters in Wanganui, New Zealand.** It was an emotional day for all; sad that we would be separated, yet conscious of the fact that growth is a great blessing. Already the sacrifices seem to be producing fruit as five postulants have sought admittance and young ladies from various countries have expressed interest in visiting and discerning their vocation. The big



The Community left in Wanganui, New Zealand

step now is to build a big Motherhouse to house all the sisters.

Plans for the future include setting up a Catholic tertiary course so that postulants and novices can receive a good spiritual formation and yet still come out with an internationally recognised qualification towards teaching. This will eventually lead to the setting-up of a Catholic University so our young girls coming from the secondary level can be trained in various fields within a good Catholic environ-

ment. But to do this, we need your help. Please pray for our congregation - if you can help us financially, God bless you - if you can send us vocations, all the better. There is much work to do! And if you are still discerning, there is always the opportunity of coming to New Zealand to help out for a year doing the cooking, laundry and perhaps a little teaching before committing to a formal postulancy in the **beautiful country of Australia. Ω**

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"All aboard for Tynong!"



Mother General with community (including one postulant from Singapore and one from the Philippines) in Melbourne, Australia, now the Motherhouse.