

Whether presiding at liturgical functions, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Single/Single Again group, or playing the piano, Michael Burke, OP, shares Dominican charism with those around him, preaching the Word of God in various ways. (All photos of Father Burke, pages 1 and 2, courtesy of Penny Noelle, Durham, North Carolina.)

Dominican Friar Ministers Around the Globe

Standing in the blazing Miami sun and shooting baskets with other members of the B-team, the slim, tow-headed fourteen-year-old mused, "I'll never be great at basketball, but I **could be good** at the piano!" He dashed the sweat from his brow, strolled off the court, and began in earnest to learn still more about his favorite instrument. We thank God for that moment of self-realization that helped Michael Burke, OP, follow his life's calling to music.

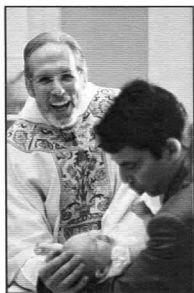
Michael was born in Detroit, Michigan, to generous and sacrificing parents who provided their only child with piano lessons when he was five years old, barely able to reach the pedals. After World War II, his family moved to Miami, Florida, where the Adrian Dominicans continued to foster and develop his love of music and piano. At sixteen, while still a high-school student, Michael began piano lessons with Sister Thomas Gertrude, OP, at Barry College. "Under Gert's influence I studied much more seriously," he recalls. "I am very grateful for her inspiration. Years later, when Gert and Denise, both giants in the Adrian musical tradition, were in wheelchairs, I had the privilege of giving a 'private recital' for them at their Motherhouse. What joy to return and say 'Thank You' to them!"

After graduating from Archbishop Curley High School in Miami, Michael matriculated at the University of Michigan, returning to the university after graduation for a year of law before entering the Dominican Order. In his first year of theology, he was encouraged to pursue a degree in Liturgical Music, earning another B.A. from St. Joseph University in Rensselaer, Indiana.

With studies in English literature, law, church architecture and environment, a Doctorate in Ministry, majoring in Clinical Studies (Jungian psychology and pastoral counseling); S.T.B. and S.T.L. degrees in theology, Michael's ministries have been varied. In them, he has been highly praised and has formed meaningful relationships.

As an itinerant preacher, participating in the formation of Preaching Team ministry, he has been a world traveler, taking his preaching skills and musical talents with him to Africa, Ireland, Lithuania, and Poland; as well as to numerous states of our own country, giving missions or retreats to parishes and religious, and teaching homiletics to Dominican laity, Sisters, and priests.

(continued, page 2)



Friar Ministers

(from page 1)

When the Dominicans arrived in the Raleigh, North Carolina, Diocese in 1994, the bishop requested a Catholic teaching project. Michael began a half-hour television program of preaching the Word for twenty minutes, then playing ten minutes of "Music to Meditate By," while photographs of scenery or other views appropriate to the theme of the day flashed on the screen. The program is still popular today, and has been broadcast to neighboring cities, even as distant as Brooklyn, New York.

Because of Michael's eight-year ministry visiting men on Death Row, he was permitted to accompany John Daniels to his death by lethal injection last November. "It was a Christ-like experience to be with him," Michael says. He plans to continue such visits, bringing prisoners a compassionate presence along with the Word of God.

Currently assisting with pastoral ministry at St. Michael's Parish in Cary, North Carolina, Michael plays the piano every Friday for an hour and a half during the lunch hour. He offers a few classical pieces, then some reflections on hymns from the liturgy or his own impromptu piano interpretations. An appreciative audience understands that the time is dedicated to reflection, meditation, and healing. Some come, stay a while, then leave; others linger for the entire ninety minutes, delighting in the music.

"I know from talking to people that they are learning to pray with the music and letting it guide their imaginations. We know music is healing, and I am continuing to explore all the blessing that this artistic expression can bring to souls," Michael comments.

Accompanying dancers, interpreting poetry through music, composing his own melodies, interpreting photographs (most recently, those of Ansel Adams exhibited in Raleigh), recording CDs, offering on the Internet samples of his piano-playing and preaching—**Michael Burke, OP**, leads a busy, fruitful, artistic life. And those to whom he gives of himself so generously are the richer for it.

To download samples of Michael Burke's music:

www.dioceseofraleigh.org/html/frburke.html

Artists: Thirsting, Seeing, Living

by Jean Ackerman, OP
DIA President



Have you ever stopped to consider what an artist the Evangelist

John was? His spirit exudes passion and vibrancy; his emotions throb with expression; his creative words pulsate with dramatic intensity.

This is the John who invites us into the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of Lent to see with wide-open eyes and listen with keenly attentive ears to the wondrous Word of God.

Artists, I urge you to come to the water thirsting for new depths of God's love in your creative hearts. I invite you to pray that your eyes will be opened, as were the eyes of the blind person. New visions summon us to contemplation; challenging views of present realities urge our artistic utterance.

The Lazarus story plunges our artistic imaginations into the creative reality of Christ, alive within us. He is risen. He breathes in us.

Artists, explore John's creative spirit. May he lead your artistic endeavors to new creative heights. Our souls thirst; our eyes long to see more clearly; our entire beings breathe the resurrected life of Christ who reminds us, "I shall put my Spirit in you that you may live."

Thank you, John, for leading us past and above the prosaic to the extravagant beauty beyond!

Correction: No geography expert, your Editor presumed that when **Brigid Bray, OP**, wrote about San Antonio for the October issue of the newsletter, she of course meant Texas. Alas, such was not the case. Brigid lives and works in another state, near a town named in honor of the good saint. I apologize for my error, and am happy to relocate Brigid in California, where she continues her Dominican ministries. M.T.F.

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DIA Member Offers 'Apologia Pro Arte Sua'

by **Nancyann Turner, OP** (Adrian)

(In response to requests, we offer some excerpts from a presentation at the **DIA** Gathering in Racine.)

Art is my communication, my language, my celebration and my ritual. Art is challenge and a mission. It is a spiritual experience, a powerful consciousness and an ongoing conversion bursting from within. My weaving, writing, journalizing, photography, calligraphy, designing are prayer, breath, focusing and entering. In my art, my weaving and my creating, I know my God. I know myself. I connect with the center and the values of so many others. I know quiet and intimacy, passion and energy. In grief, my weaving has been solace. In jubilation, my weaving has been gift. In day-to-day life, creation is my beginning and my ending.

Art and spirituality are so integrated in my life, my prayer and my ministry, I cannot imagine not being an artist. It is how I see, how I breathe, how I pray and how I minister. Daily, sometimes hourly, I am a creator and use my creative energy and power with my hands, my heart and my head.

I believe that it is in the process of prayer and contemplation that we artists will recognize what we're gifted with and what we are longing for. Our bodies are vehicles for the spirit. Because I have these hands, I can paint and weave. Because of these eyes, I can see and envision. Because of this body, I have the ability to manifest the divine in some form other than pure spirit. I can **see** the face of God and I can **be** the face of God.



Board members **Jeanne Stickling, OP**, and **Rudolph Loewenstein, OP**, pause a moment for refreshments.



"Board meetings aren't all work!" agree **Colleen Gallagher, OP**, and **Irene Mary Diones, OP**.

Board Meets, Discusses, Decides

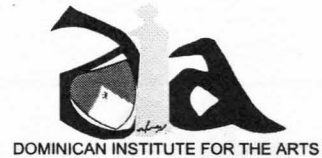
Present at the **DIA** November Board Meeting at the Regina Convent in Wilmette, Illinois, were Dominicans Jean Ackerman, Jude Bloch, Irene Mary Diones, Colleen Gallagher, Rudolf Loewenstein, and Jeanne Stickling. Phone conference calls were arranged for communication with Barbara Schwartz and Pat Daly.

Brought to the table was news concerning **DIA's** tax-exempt status; study and discussion of the legal ramifications helped clarify the situation for all. A vision for **DIA's** future, members agreed, includes clarity of communications, appropriate and professional confidentiality, strengthening of infra-structure service and networking, and the encouragement and initiation of celebration of the arts on local and communal levels.

Board members are working collaboratively to use each other's gifts and capabilities by describing, organizing, and distributing the multiple tasks that lie before them.

Other matters discussed pertained to the anticipated July 16 - 19 *Adrian Gathering*, sites for subsequent meetings, and the synthesis of responses about last summer's *Racine Gathering*. This led to a scrutiny of the Dominican Youth Preaching Conference and the possibility of involving its members with **DIA**.

Various topics needed addressing: **DIA** brochures, nominations for the *Fra Angelico* Award, preaching ministries as accomplished through the arts, the Constitutions, By-laws, and policies of the organization, recruitment of membership in Canada as well as within our own borders, increase in membership fees. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 4-6.



February 2005

Dear DIA Member,

This is to inform you that we have you on our mailing list as being a recent member of the DIA. For that we are grateful! It's time now to pay your 2005 membership fee. Membership runs by each calendar year from January 1st to December 31st. This year the fee has been increased by ten dollars. This will help to insure that the organization meets its fiscal needs.

Thank you for the taking time to fill out the membership/biography forms and make out your check in care of the DIA and send it all on to me.

If your membership fee and this letter have crossed in the mail, please disregard this reminder. However, you may wish to update your current information on the forms enclosed.

Some of you may have already paid your 2005 membership fee at an earlier date. If so, you may have paid \$25 for 2005. We would appreciate the extra \$10 if your budget will allow. Simply use the membership form enclosed and add a note regarding your payment.

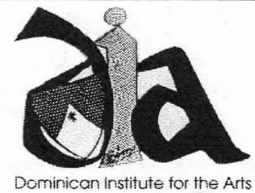
Thank you for your patience at this time of change in process. From now on we hope to be sending reminders out to membership each January.

Please direct any questions to me by phone or email.

Gratefully,

Irene Mary Diones, OP
DIA Board Secretary/Membership Liaison
Home # 323-255-1591
irenemd@msjdominicans.org

DIA MEMBERSHIP FORM



Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Ministry Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Congregation/Province: _____

Today's Date: _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal of Membership ☐ Information Update

Please check discipline(s) in which you are involved:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Appreciator / supporter
of the Arts | <input type="radio"/> Iconography | <input type="radio"/> Prose |
| <input type="radio"/> Calligraphy | <input type="radio"/> Illustration | <input type="radio"/> Sacred Space |
| <input type="radio"/> Computer Design | <input type="radio"/> Jewelry | <input type="radio"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="radio"/> Constructions &
Installations | <input type="radio"/> Metal Work | <input type="radio"/> Theatre Arts |
| <input type="radio"/> Composer | <input type="radio"/> Musician | <input type="radio"/> Visual Arts |
| <input type="radio"/> Dance | <input type="radio"/> Music / Voice | <input type="radio"/> Woodcarving |
| <input type="radio"/> Drama / Storytelling | <input type="radio"/> Painting (acrylic, oil,
watercolor, other) | <input type="radio"/> Other (be specific) _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Fabric / Weaving | <input type="radio"/> Photography | _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Film / Video | <input type="radio"/> Poetry | _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Graphics | <input type="radio"/> Pottery | _____ |
| | <input type="radio"/> Printmaking | _____ |

A Membership fee of \$35 (U.S. dollars) must accompany this Membership Form.

Please make check **payable to DIA**. Mail form and check to:
DIA Membership Commission c/o Irene Mary Diones OP
6024 Terrace Drive • Los Angeles, CA 90042

Columbus Dominicans and Curator Remember Artist

by Colleen Gallagher, OP

Barbara Bueler Lynes, Curator of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was guest at a luncheon in her honor at the **De Porres Center at Saint Mary of the Springs** with Sisters who knew Georgia as friend and neighbor as well as artist.

Ms. Lynes was in Columbus to lecture about the current O'Keeffe exhibit at the Columbus Museum of Art. Time was set aside for sharing, as the Sisters indeed had stories to tell. Barbara Lynes has authored a dozen publications on Georgia, the artist; but here she was to learn about Georgia, the woman, neighbor, and friend.

Those who admire the works of Georgia O'Keeffe may recall that while she worked in the Southwest, her residence / studio was at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Across the road from her, the Columbus Dominicans lived and ministered at St. Thomas Mission from 1946-1975. Through the years these women (most of whom now enjoy retirement from active ministry) have told stories of Georgia's dropping in for tea, and the Sisters' being guests at The Ranch.

Annunciata Chen, OP, an artist herself, recalls responding to the artist's request to teach her Chinese brush calligraphy. **Irma Walker, OP**, and Georgia enjoyed a close and lasting friendship; Irma takes pride in sharing her photo album with pictures of Georgia, Ghost Ranch and the Mission.

Regarding her visit, Barbara writes: "I feel that we have begun good communication that will lead to something very important in terms of establishing the history of the work the Sisters accomplished in Abiquiu."

DEADLINE for submissions to next issue: May 8, Mother's Day. Please let us know what you have accomplished or tried lately. We love to rejoice with you, to affirm and congratulate you on your important Dominican artist's ministry.

"Christians are using films as teaching tools," assert Robert K. Johnston and Catherine M. Barsotti, authors of *Finding God in the Movies: 33 Films of Reel Faith*. Worth investigating?



(From left): Barbara Lynes, **Rebecca Costello, OP**, and **Irma Walker, OP**, marvel at the rich beauty of Georgia O'Keeffe's artistry.

DIA Members Minister in Myriad Ways

We are happy to publish snippets of information about the ministries of our dedicated and talented members. Congratulations and best wishes to:

- ❖ **Thoma Swanson, OP** (Columbus), who did eleven illustrations for the book *Women's Rights are Human Rights*, published by Dominican Sisters International and the International Commission of Peace and Justice. This is #8 in a series to which the Dominican Family has been contributing for years. Contact JP@curia.op.org for more information.
- ❖ **Amy McFrederick, OP** (Great Bend), who is currently collaborating on the CD recording for the new Dominican Office Book.
- ❖ **Jim Marchionda, OP** (Central Province), well-known member of **DIA**, who is happy to announce the World Library Publications release of his latest recording, "The Good News." A collection of songs designed for children and youth but appreciated by adults as well, the CD is Scripture-based, featuring an upbeat, energetic musical style. The use of both a youth choir and an adult ensemble demonstrates the flexibility of the music and its cross-generational appeal. Call WLP at 800-566-6150 or access www.wlpmusic.com to order a copy of this truly Dominican "musical preaching wedded to the Word of God"

Grand Rapids Dominicans Focus on Collaborative Future

by **Susanne Tracy, OP**

Artistic expression was a core part of our Grand Rapids Dominicans' General Assembly last summer. The overall theme, "Cast out into the deep; launch into the future" invited us to focus on various ways that Dominicans are already collaborating towards a viable future together. Exhibits and presentations on these organizations were available during the week:

- ✧ Dominican Leadership Conference
- ✧ Parable and the Aquinas Preaching Institute
- ✧ Dominican Collaborative Novitiate
- ✧ Federation of Dominican Sisters USA
- ✧ Dominican Volunteers
- ✧ Dominican Women Liturgy of the Hours
- ✧ Dominican Institute for the Arts
- ✧ Dominican Volunteers
- ✧ Dominican Associates

Jude Bloch, OP, provided the signage for each room by way of a unique cardboard cutaway design. The largest room was devoted to artworks and displays of the GR Dominicans DIA members. The artistic preaching included:

- ✧ Sculptures, photography and poetry
- ✧ Pottery, public speaking, and handcrafted cards
- ✧ Calligraphy, icons and handmade candles
- ✧ Graphic designs, quilts and table runners

A special historical exhibit showed **Phyllis Mrozinski, OP's** original design of the Fra Angelico award with its plastic carving, plaster mold, wax medallion and original bronze medalion. How grateful we are that her God-given gift has created such a significant contribution to the **DIA's** annual tradition.

Enthusiasm was evident as our Sisters saw in living diversity the ways that arts can and do preach. The informative sessions about **DIA** led by **Francetta McCann, OP**, were well attended. Several signed up for more information. I think it is safe to say that we will see more **GRD** faces at this summer's **DIA Gathering** in Adrian.

"Creativity is like love: It is always a risk. It may be spit upon when you offer it; it may be spurned or unrequited, but it may also be received like a seed into fertile ground ... That makes it a chance worth taking."

—from "Willingness" by Jessie Harriman
in *The Other Side*, July and August 2004



Grand Rapids Dominican Lucianne Siers preaches through her sculpture.

Important Announcements

by **Jude Bloch, OP** (Grand Rapids)

For almost ten years the **DIA** has been able to keep the membership fee at the same level, and we can be very proud of that. The original membership fee of \$25.00 was inaugurated by that pioneering group of Dominican artists in 1997 who began the process of making the **DIA** a reality.

Due to the rising costs of good business, the **DIA Board has raised the membership fee to \$35.00 for 2005**. All membership forms and informational pieces will reflect this increase.

DIA membership will now span the calendar year (January 1 - December 31). Membership will receive information regarding their dues status each new year toward the end of January by the Board Secretary who is also the Membership Liaison.

Some of you may have already paid your membership fees at an earlier date. If so, you probably paid \$25 for this new year. We would appreciate the extra \$10 if your budget will allow. Simply use the membership form in the newsletter and add a note regarding your payment.

Thank you for your patience during this time of change.



The OPrize for Poetry is open to all members of the Order of Preachers. Its purpose is to encourage the use of poetry to further the mission of the Order, to highlight the pillars of Dominican life (prayer, study, community, and apostolic activity), and to confront contemporary issues as only a Dominican preacher would.

Maximum number of submissions: 5 (any length)

Fee per entry: \$10 each poem

- Prizes: Gold Prize : \$100 plus plaque
- Silver Prize : \$50 plus plaque
- Bronze Prize : \$25 plus plaque; Honorable Mentions - Certificate

(These prize winners will be published in a chapbook entitled *The Pillars*. Other poems will also be selected for publication. All poets published will receive a copy of the chapbook, which will also be available for sale.)

- CONTEST RULES:**
1. Each submission must be original and on separate sheet(s).
 2. No identification of the author should appear on the submission.
 3. To each submission, attach a 3 by 5 card with the author's name, address, telephone number, House/Congregation, and email address.
 4. Send a submission fee of \$10 for each poem.

Make check payable to "OPrize for Poetry" and send to: OPrize for Poetry
PO Box 6331 / Chandler, AZ 85246 on or before March 1, 2005.

Winners announced: May 1, 2005

In CIW, DomLife.org, DIA Newsletter and other media

All poetry will be blind-judged by independent judges:

Robert Curtis, OPL; Mary Fisher, OP; Armando Ibanez, OP; Donna Maria Moses, OP;
Karen Woods, OPL. (Other judges may be selected as needed.)

See our website: <http://www.OPrize.com>

For additional information contact:

OprizeforPoetry@hotmail.com

**Nomination for
2005 *Fra Angelico* Award**

General qualities:

- ❖ Nominee is a **DIA** member in good standing;
- ❖ Nominee has demonstrated knowledge and practice of **DIA's** principles, ideals, and vision;
- ❖ Nominee has used her/his art to spread the Word of God, preaching through it as Dominic did;
- ❖ Nominee has carried the Dominican artist's ministry beyond narrow confines of parochialism;
- ❖ Nominee reflects the best that DIA can offer;
- ❖ Nominee brings credit to confreres and to DIA as a whole;
- ❖ Nominee generously shares gifts and talents with others.

N.B. The following ballot may be mailed to

DIA President Jean Ackerman, OP
600 12th Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201

until March 1, 2005 (Deadline). Use additional sheets if necessary.

OFFICIAL DIA BALLOT

After prayerful consideration of the qualities listed, I
nominate _____

whose discipline is _____ and
whose training and background include _____

as a recipient of the 2005 *Fra Angelico* Award
because: _____

This candidate has been recognized by peers and
has received other awards such as _____

(Signed) DIA Member: _____

Phone: _____

DIA MEMBERSHIP

Please Check:

- ☐ New Member ☐ Membership Renewal
☐ Information Update

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cong./Province: _____

My Art Interests: _____

Membership fee of \$35.00 spans the year in which you check is written (January 1 - December 31).

Please make check payable to **DIA**. Mail check and this membership form to **DIA** Membership Liaison:

Irene Mary Diones, OP
6024 Terrace Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90042



photo by Gabrielle Hubert, OP (Racine)

Who spares a passing glance
At frozen oak leaves,
Ice-crystalled *in loccus*?

Till suddenly—
Before the eyes can focus:

Crocus!

—Mary Fisher, OP (Racine)

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