

## **THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTION OF THE DOMINICAN LAITY**

### **1. Laity In The Church**

Among the disciples of Christ, those men and women who live in the world are, by their baptism and confirmation, made sharers in the prophetic, priestly and royal offices of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have as their vocation to radiate the presence of Christ in the midst of the peoples so that the divine message of salvation be known and accepted everywhere by the whole of mankind. (Decree of Vatican Council II, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, on the apostolate of the laity, paragraph 3).

### **2. Dominican Laity**

Some among them are moved by the Holy Spirit to live according to the spirit and charism of Saint Dominic, and are incorporated into the Order by special commitment according to statutes of their own.

### **3. Dominican Family**

They form communities and, together with other groups in the Order, make up one family (cf. *Constitutions of the Brethren*, 1. IX)

### **4. Special Character of the Dominican Laity**

Hence they are marked out by the particular style of their spiritual life and of their service to God and to their neighbour in the Church. As members of the Order, they share its apostolic mission, by study, prayer and preaching in keeping with their state as members of the laity.

### **5. Apostolic Mission**

Following the example of Saint Dominic, Saint Catherine of Siena and others of our forebears who were shining examples of the life of the Order and the Church, they draw strength from fraternal communion, above all to bear witness to the faith which is theirs, to be sensitive to the needs of people in the present, and to serve truth.

6. They pay careful attention to the principal objectives of the church's present-day apostolate, and feel a special compulsion to show real compassion for every form of distress, to defend freedom and to promote justice and peace.

7. Inspired by the Order's charism, they remember always that apostolic work springs from the fullness of contemplation.

*Rev. P. Jose Luis de Miguel Fernandez, O.P.*

*Prior Of the Dominican Community*

*Edf. Alan Court r/c, andar A, Macau*

*Dear Fr. Jose Luis,*

*May the risen Christ be with you!*

*There is a group of Filipino ladies working here in Macau who had been searching for a meaning in their life. Some of them are regular attendees of the mass in the Dominican chapel. They also attend some gatherings when occasion allows and they're quite familiar with the Dominican community here in Macau.*

*Knowing them personally through conversation and camaraderie as good standing Christian, an idea was conceived to create a Lay Dominican community here in Macau and through an invitation they agreed to attend for an experiential session. They have been consistently attending the meetings to which Fr. Jose Luis and Fr. Jarvis had been giving them a sort of Dominican formation.*

*It had been a year now, and so with your kindness I am soliciting from the Provincial Council an admittance of these ladies to enter the stage of Postulancy. These are the names of the candidates:*

- ✦ Ana Marie Paroy*
- ✦ Miriam Zingapan*
- ✦ Francisca Ann de Guzman*
- ✦ Frans de Guzman*
- ✦ Rosie Pae Alcantara*
- ✦ Selina Faigmani Ebo*
- ✦ Sonia de la Guardia*

*Thank you for your kind consideration and may we be one in the spirit of our Father St. Dominic.*

*In Jesus Name,  
Sr. Maria Lourdes Blanca, O.P.*

Fr Javier González, OP  
Prior Provincial of the Holy Rosary Province,  
Provincial Councilors.  
Kowloon Tong (Hong Kong).

Macau, April 14, 2016

Dear Fr. Javier and Councilors:


I'm writing to you regarding the future, as I hope, Dominican Lay Fraternity -"Torch of Macau"-, about which we have already briefly interchanged. The group is composed at present of 7 Filipino Ladies, all of them residing in Macau, who have been meeting, here in our Priory, for around one year and a half, under the leadership of Sr. María Lourdes Blanca, O.P., who would continue as part of the future Fraternity. It is hoped, that some more members will join later on in the near future.

They have solicited from the Order (letter attached) to be admitted in a more formal way, to be part of it and its mission, as it is stated in the standing Statutes of the Dominican Laity. Here, at the Priory, we have no objection to their admittance and further attention to their need of formation, liturgical and pastoral care, etc.

Given that they normally interchange among themselves, and feel more at home speaking, singing, etc., in Tagalog, we have thought fr. Jarvis to be the one most appropriate to accompany them during this initial period of their Novitiate. He has shown no objection to it.

And so, fr. Provincial, I am forwarding this solicitude to you and the Provincial Council for its approval, and if so, proceed with the "go" signal.

Thank you very much for your attention.  
Yours fraternally in the Lord and Saint Dominic



fr. José Luis de Miguel, OP  
Prior





*Prior Provincial*  
*Dominican Missions*  
*8-10 Eastbourne Rd. Block 2*  
*Kowloon Tong*  
*HONG KONG (SAR), CHINA*

01 May 2016

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAY DOMINICAN FRATERNITY  
“TORCH OF MACAU”**

I, Brother Javier González Izquierdo, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Rosary of the Order of Friars Preachers,

- Considering that one of the most important priorities of my office is to promote the Dominican Laity as “an Association of the faithful living in the world, who participate in the religious and apostolic life of the Order of Friars Preachers under the guidance of the Dominican Brethren and according to the Rule approved by the Holy See”;
- Given the existence of a group of people in Macau who have manifested their pious desire to be incorporated into the Dominican Family, in order to satisfy their desire for holiness, to live the Gospel message in a more radical way, and to promote the apostolate proper of the laity within the Church and the Dominican Order;
- Upon the petition from the Prior of St Dominic’s Priory in Macau and of some other Dominican Brothers and Sisters that a Chapter of Dominican Laity be established in the Diocese of Macau;
- Having obtained the consent of the Provincial Council of the Province of Our Lady of the Rosary;

By means of this document, by the authority granted to me by virtue of my office, and in accordance with canon 312 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby approve and officially establish the Dominican Lay Fraternity “**TORCH OF MACAU**”, with headquarters at St Dominic’s Priory, 39-41 Avenida de Sidonio Pais, endowing it with all the pertinent privileges, indulgences and Apostolic favours.

All else to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in our Provincial Curia, Saint Joseph’s House, in Hong Kong, under the seal of the Province, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of May, in the year of our Lord 2016, on the feast of St Joseph the Worker.

  
Fr. Fernando Muñoz Martín, OP  
*Provincial Secretary*



  
Fr. Javier González Izquierdo, OP  
*Prior Provincial*