



Fr. Fullerton reads the admonition to four postulants before they receive the habit of the Third Order Dominicans. Fr. MacPherson is the deacon and Fr. Stephens is the subdeacon at Corpus Christi Church, Tynong, Australia.

Vocations From Asia

The Christmas period was one of great joy for the Dominican Sisters of Wanganui. In New Zealand, Sister Maria Swarupa (India) renewed her perpetual oblation and became a finally professed member of the community while Sister Marie Dominique (USA) renewed her temporary profession for two years—the last stretch before final profession.

In Australia, on the Feast of the Epiphany, we had the pleasure of visitors from the Orient and afar to see the taking of habit and first profession ceremony. Our three wise men, Frs. Couture, Delsorte and Belisle led the schola up in the choir loft while another royal group, Frs. Fullerton, MacPherson and Stephens were celebrant, deacon and

subdeacon for the ceremony. We were also blessed with the presence of Fr. du Chauzaud and visiting seminarians.

It was a day of exceeding great joy as four postulants, on the Feast of the Epiphany, received the holy habit. Our generous little ones asked the Church for **God's mercy, laid down their hair for love of Him, chose the crown of thorns**



Four young novices, crowned with thorns rather than roses, receive a final blessing.

The Dominican Sisters of Tynong ♦ Australia



They might have to wear crowns of thorns, but no restrictions on cake!



Fr. Daniel Couture with novices Sr. Mary Imelda (Singapore), Sr. Maria Columba (Singapore) and Sr. Mary Bernard (Philippines).

and received new names: Miss Maria Beatriz Piña Mejia (Mexico) took the name Sister Maria Dolores; Miss Anna Cristen (Kansas, USA) took the name Sister Mary Amata; Miss Cara Ruegg (Maryland, USA) took the name Sister Mary Francis; and Miss Emily Ng (Singapore) took the name Sister Mary Imelda.

After the Gospel, our two American novices, Sisters Mary Johanna and Thomas, prostrated themselves before the altar, again seeking God's mercy, and then presented their gifts of poverty, chastity and obedience for the first time

while placing their hands in those of Mother General. They were then each adorned with the black veil of a professed sister.

We pray now for their holy perseverance as we continue the work which is set before us. In Wanganui New Zealand, this entails expanding the girls' boarding school, which is now legally a licensed hostel under the name of Signadou, as well as continuing our work in education at the primary and secondary level. At Rosary Convent, Australia, work has begun on our own Teacher's College. Progress has been made to the

extent that we are now able to train our young sisters ourselves (in the Catholic way), by crediting them with an internationally recognised teaching degree. This has been a wonderful step forward.

The most important task for now, however, is to build our much needed Motherhouse. Our desire is to have a colonial style convent near St. Thomas Aquinas School in Tynong. For that, we need your prayers and dare we be so bold....your money. If you can help in this important work, please contact Mother Mary Micaela O.P., Prioress General at stdominic@spx.com. Ω



Fr. Robert MacPherson and the happy Dominic Sisters of Tynong, Australia.