2016 is an important year for the Dominican Order: we turn eight hundred years old! In this jubilee year, Dominicans everywhere are celebrating the role that the order has played in the world, in the Church, and in each of our lives. In the Province of Saint Joseph, our schola cantorum at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., has produced an album of sacred music to celebrate this special anniversary. Spanning from medieval times all the way to the present day, the music of Gaudeamus, Latin for “let us rejoice,” highlights various themes of our Dominican life.

We begin with the source and summit of the Christian life, the Eucharist, by singing multiple musical settings of a prayer composed by Saint Thomas Aquinas, a great theologian of the Church and an early Dominican friar: “O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received.” Next, we honor three saints who have a special place in our life: the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the order and of our house; Saint Joseph, the patron of our province; and Holy Father Dominic, our founder. Saint Dominic founded our order to preach for the salvation of souls, so the next group of selections highlights this special mission of preaching: “Proclaim the greatness of the Lord, you preachers of his grace!” Then, we celebrate the saints in general, all those who “follow the Lamb wherever he goes.” We conclude the album in the same way that we conclude each day in our convents, by praying for the deceased: “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”

Five of the tracks on Gaudeamus are original compositions by some of our friars here at the House of Studies, and two more of the tracks are original texts by our friars and include musical arrangements by them as well. As Dominicans, we devote much time to crafting talks, homilies, and books, but these musical and poetic compositions remind us of the importance of communicating the beauty of the Word in a way that can uniquely lift the affections of our spirit in praise of God.

We would like to thank Mark Nowakowski for writing his setting of the O sacrum convivium as a gift to our schola cantorum and for allowing us to record it for this album. We would also like to thank the Dominican Nuns of Summit, New Jersey, for allowing us to use their harmonization of a traditional Irish melody as found in The Summit Choirbook in the nineteenth track on this album, “Proclaim the Greatness of the Lord.”

Thank you for joining us in our celebration. May we never cease to hear and proclaim the Eternal Word of the Father. Gaudeamus!
Source and Summit: The Holy Eucharist

According to our constitutions, “The brothers should meditate attentively on the grace of [the Eucharist], pondering its importance for their salvation and that of others.” We begin each liturgical office by reciting an antiphon that recalls this “sacred banquet.” Given its importance, the antiphon is sung here to three different musical settings, followed by a setting of another beautiful medieval text about the Eucharist, the Anima Christi.

1–3. O sacrum convivium
Magnificat antiphon for the feast of Corpus Christi
Saint Thomas Aquinas

O sacrum convivium,
in quo Christus sumitur:
recolitur memoria passionis eius:
mens impletur gratia:
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur, alleluia.

2. Dominican chant
3. Mark Nowakowski (b. 1978)

4. Anima Christi
early 14th century, often attr. to Pope John XXII

Anima Christi, sanctifica me.
Corpus Christi, salva me.
Sanguis Christi, inebria me.
Aqua lateris Christi, lava me.
Passio Christi, conforta me.
O bone Jesu, exaudi me.
Intra tua vulnera absconde me.
Ne permittas me separari a te.
Ab hoste maligno defende me.
In hora mortis meae voca me,
et jube me venire ad te,
ut cum sanctis tuus laudem te,
in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the malignant enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me,
and bid me come unto you,
that with your saints I may praise you,
forever and ever. Amen.
Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope: The Blessed Virgin Mary

In our chapel, the readings of the Divine Office are proclaimed at the “Lady Lectern,” a reading stand crowned with a figure of the Blessed Virgin pregnant with the Divine Word. The first of the following selections commemorates her patronage over the entire Order of Preachers as the Queen of Preachers—of those who preach that saving Divine Word whom she carried within her—while the second honors her as patroness of our house and our school under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

5 & 6. Ave, Regina Caelorum
Marian antiphon from Candlemas to Easter

Ave, Regina Caelorum; Ave, Domina Angelorum. Salve radix, salve porta, ex qua mundo lux est orta.
Gaude Virgo gloriosa, super omnes speciosa. Vale, o valve decora, et pro nobis Christum exora.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

7. All Hail to Thee, O Virgin Bright
Humbert Kilanowski, O.P. (b. 1982)

1. All hail to thee, O Virgin bright, Who guard’st us with thy queenly might, A star to guide us on the way Into the port of endless day; Dear Mother of all vict’ry sure, Defend us in our faith secure, While through the storms of life we sail; Thy spotless heart shall e’er prevail!

2. Before thou ever cam’st to be, The Father marked and favored thee, The fairest honor of our race, In ev’ry moment full of grace, To make of thee, in His great plan A dwelling for the Son of Man; While earth and sky can naught avail, Thy spotless heart shall e’er prevail!

3. Thou Seat of Wisdom, from our youth Didst lead us to the Light and Truth; So teach us well to spread His fame, To praise, to bless, to preach His Name, And guide us by thy loving hand To save the souls in ev’ry land; Though sin and error both assail, Thy spotless heart shall e’er prevail!

4. May God the Father e’er be praised; And hymns to Jesus Christ be raised; And may the Spirit now receive All laud, who did the Son conceive Through Mary, our celestial gate, Thyself conceived immaculate; Virgin and Mother both we hail: Thy spotless heart shall e’er prevail!
A Wise and Prudent Steward: Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph is the patron of our province. We are blessed to have him as a model and intercessor as we strive to be caretakers of the Word of God and stewards of Holy Mother Church.

8. The Dream of Saint Joseph
Matthew 1:20–21

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Preacher of Grace: Saint Dominic

The first of this group of pieces honoring Saint Dominic sings of his life as “he exhorts all to the law of love,” bearing the torch of the Gospel. The second recalls his continual prayers, as he interceded for the Lord’s mercy upon the world by night and by day. Finally, three chants entreat Saint Dominic to maintain his vigilant care for his brethren still on earth.

9. In caelesti hierarchia
Sequence for the feast of Saint Dominic

1. In caelesti hierarchia
nova sonet harmonia,
novo ducta cantico.

2. Cui concordet in hac via
nostri chori melodia
laudem dans Dominico.

3. In fiscella paupertatis
virum suae voluntatis
vocat Auctor saeculi.

4. Lucem ferens veritatis,
igne quoque caritatis
fidem fovet populi.

5. A defunctis revocatum,
matri vivum reddit natum
vivens adhuc corpore.

1. In the heavenly hierarchy,
let there sound a new harmony
produced in a new canticle.

2. And let the melody of our choir
on this earthagree therewith,
rejoicing with Dominic.

3. On the ark of poverty,
the Creator of the world
called the man of his decree.

4. Bearing the light of truth,
with the fire of charity,
fostering the faith of the people.

5. While yet alive in body,
he restores to a mother her son,
recalled from the dead.
6. Signo crucis imber cedit, turba fratrum panem edit missum Dei munere.

7. Felix, per quem gaudia tota iam Ecclesia sumens exaltatur.


9. Iacet granum occultatum, sidus latet obumbratum in salutem gentium.

10. Ossa namque pullulare, sidus iubet radiare Rex plasmator omnium.

11. O quam probat carnis florem, omnem superans odorem, tumuli fragrantia!

12. Aegri currunt et curantur caeci, claudi reparantur eius mira potentia.

13. Laudes ergo Dominico personemus mirifico, voce plena.


15. Sed tu, Pater pie, bone pastor gregis et patrone, prece semper sedula,


6. A storm bows to his sign of the cross; then the company of brethren eats bread, sent as a gift of God.

7. The blessed man, in whom all the Church now takes joy, is exalted.

8. He fills the world with his seed, and at last is located in the army of heaven.

9. The grain of wheat lies hidden, the star lurks concealed. Yet for the salvation of the nations,

10. The King and Maker of all things commands the very bones to germinate and the star to shine.

11. O how the fragrance of his tomb, surpassing every aroma, proves the bloom of his flesh!

12. The sick come with haste and are cured, the blind and the lame are made whole by his marvelous power.

13. Wherefore let us sound forth with full voice our praises to the great Saint Dominic.

14. O people of need, as you follow in his footsteps, call on him to intercede.

15. But do you, O loving father, good shepherd, and defender of your flock,

16. Commend at the throne of the great King, by your constant prayer, the concerns of your beloved flock. Amen. Alleluia.
10. **Hear the Voice and Prayer**  
*2 Chronicles 6:19–21*  

Hear the voice and prayer of Thy servants that they make before Thee this day, that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, ever toward this place of which Thou hast said: “My Name shall be there.” And when Thou hear’st have mercy on them.

11. **O spem miram**  
(Matins responsory for the feast of Saint Dominic)  

**Dominican chant**  

O spem miram, quam dedisti mortis hora te flentibus, dum post mortem promisisti te profuturum fratibus! * Imple, Pater, quod dixisti, nos tuis iuvans precibus.  

℣. Qui tot signis clariuisti in aegrorum corporibus, nobis opem ferens Christi, aegris medere moribus. * Imple, Pater . . .  

 Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. * Imple, Pater . . .  

12. **Pie Pater**  
(Vespers antiphon for the Translation of Saint Dominic)  

**Dominican chant**  

Pie Pater Dominice,  

tuorum memor operum,  

sta coram summo Judice  

pro tuo coetu pauperum.  

13. **Magne Pater**  
(Magnificat antiphon for the Translation of Saint Dominic)  

**Dominican chant**  

Magne Pater sancte Dominice,  

mortis hora tecum suscipe,  

et hic semper nos pie respice.  

O loving father Dominic,  

mindful of your works,  

stand before the supreme Judge  

on behalf of your company of poor brothers.  

O great Holy Father Dominic,  

take us up with you at the hour of death,  

and always watch over us lovingly here below.
Preaching for the Salvation of Souls

Our order was founded to preach the Gospel. With Saint Paul, we strive to preach Christ crucified, and so we sing of his holy cross. Preaching the Lord’s cross always leads to proclaiming the victory made manifest in his resurrection, in which the right hand of the Lord raises up all things. By this holy preaching, we strive to continue the work of the apostles, who went out in omnem terram—into every land—to proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

14. Protect Thy People, O Lord
Offertory for the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Protect Thy people, O Lord,
by the sign of the holy cross,
from the attacks of all enemies;
so that our service may be pleasing to Thee
and our sacrifice acceptable to Thee, alleluia.

15. Adoramus te, Christe
Antiphon for Good Friday and feasts of the cross

Adoramus te, Christe,
et benedicimus tibi,
quia per sanctam crucem tuam
redemisti mundum.
Miserere nobis.

We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.
Have mercy on us.

16. The Right Hand of the Lord
Psalm 118:16–17, Offertory for the Easter Vigil

The right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength;
the right hand of the Lord hath exalted me.
I shall not die, but live, and shall proclaim the works of the Lord, alleluia.
17–18. In omnem terram
Psalm 19:5, Offertory for feasts of the apostles

In omnem terram exivit sonus eorum,
et in fines orbis terrae verba eorum.

17. Dominican chant
18. Giovanni Andrea Draconio (1550–1559)

Into every land their voice has gone out,
their words to the very bounds of the earth.

19. Proclaim the Greatness of the Lord
Andrew Hofer, O.P. (b. 1972)

1. Proclaim the greatness of the Lord,
You preachers of His grace.
From age to age He is adored
By those who seek His face.
Your fathers knew the Savior called,
A call that still does reach
Within the hearts of those enthralled
To praise, to bless, to preach.

2. The angels sing His praise above
And you announce below
The Gospel of redeeming love,
His mercy to bestow.
How wondrous is that saving Word,
Good news of hope to each,
For faith is born from what is heard,
What Christ Himself did preach.

3. Your fathers told you of His deeds,
The stories long ago,
And you, their sons, now spread the seeds,
By faith His reign to sow.
So great will be the harvest song,
The best will then be told,
When preachers lead the mighty throng
In heaven's hundredfold.

4. Proclaim the greatness of the Lord,
You preachers of His grace.
Take up your shield and Spirit’s sword,
And preach to every race.
The Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Have come in souls to dwell.
Now praise the Lord from East to West;
To all, His greatness tell.
Rejoicing in the Holiness of the Saints

We do not attempt the work of the Gospel on our own. We are always in the company of the great multitude of witnesses who have preceded us. The saints spur us on to follow Christ faithfully here below, that we may one day rejoice with them in heaven.

20. Gaudeamus omnes in Domino
Officium for the feast of All Saints

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino,
diem festum celebrantes
sub honore Sanctorum omnium,
de quorum solemnitate gaudent Angeli,
et collaudant Filium Dei.

℣. Exsultate justi in Domino:
rectos decet collaudatio.
Gloria Patri . . .
Gaudeamus . . .

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
celebrating a festival day
in honor of all the saints,
at whose solemnity the angels rejoice,
and give praise to the Son of God.

℣. Rejoice in the Lord, you just:
praise is becoming to the upright.

Glory be to the Father . . .
Let us all rejoice . . .

21. O quam gloriosum
Vespers antiphon for the feast of All Saints

O quam gloriosum est regnum,
in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes Sancti!
Amicti stolis albis,
sequuntur Agnum quocumque ierit.

O how glorious is the kingdom
in which all the saints rejoice with Christ!
Clad in robes of white,
they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
Praying for the Dead

We are members of a family that extends not just around the world but also back through eight centuries. For this reason, we Dominicans pray for our deceased brothers and sisters every day, that through the mercy of God they might rest from their labors in the company of his saints forever.

22. Requiem aeternam
Officium for Masses for the Dead
Dominican chant

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.
Requiem aeternam . . .

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn is fitting to you, O God, in Zion, and a vow will be paid to you in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer, you to whom all flesh will come.
Eternal rest . . .

23. Lux aeterna
Communion antiphon for Masses for the Dead
Dominican chant

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

May perpetual light shine upon them, O Lord, with your saints for ever, for you are merciful.

24. Beati mortui
Revelation 14:13
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Beati mortui in Domino morientes deinceps.
Dicit enim Spiritus, ut requiescant a laboribus suis et opera illorum sequuntur ipsos.

Blessed, henceforth, are those who die in the Lord.
Indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works follow them.
Schola Cantorum of the Dominican Friars
Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.

Director: Fr. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, O.P.
Recording Engineer and Project Manager: Br. Justin Bolger, O.P.
Musical Consultant and Organist: Br. Peter Gautsch, O.P.
Recorded at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, D.C.
Mastering Engineer: Scott Hull, Masterdisk, New York, N.Y.

Album design: Br. Leo Camurati, O.P. & Br. Irenaeus Dunlevy, O.P.
Album photos: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.
Booklet notes: Br. Luke Hoyt, O.P.
Booklet layout: Br. Ignatius Weiss, O.P.

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Booklet cover image: Holiness, Bernadette Carstensen
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