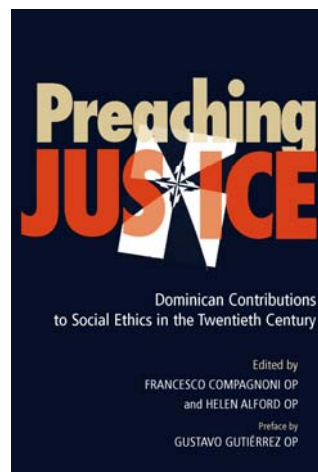




**Conference: Preaching Justice  
Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas**

*Welcome and Opening Comment of Fr. David Michael Kammler OP, Promoter General of Dominican Laity and representative of the Master of the Order of Preachers*



**Rome, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

I am very pleased to welcome you. Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, the Master of the Order, stay at the moment not here at Rome, and also not his Vicar, Fr. Ed Ruane.

So they asked me to present their special greetings to this Conference. But I don't feel at all myself as a third-class-substitute. As Promoter General of Dominican Laity I am proud, that a contribution in the second part of the today officially presented new book deals also about some members of the worldwide represented Lay Dominican Chapters, in former times the so called "Third Order".

But I am here also as a son of the Province of Teutonia, Germany, and as former Prior of the now closed Dominican Study Centre of Walberberg near Cologne, the successor of the medieval 'studium generale', where St. Albert taught and St. Thomas of Aquinas studied. So I am very pleased having had the privilege during my studies at Walberberg to get in personal contact with two (under No 3 and No 16 of the book) covered witnesses of "Preaching Justice", Fr. Franziskus Stratmann and Fr. Eberhard Welty. Already then, in the early sixties) my fellow students and I were conscious of the special role those brothers – two generations older – played in their field within society and church. But only from the distance of time I got increasingly aware of the real importance of their work. As special personalities are common, also these brothers were within their communities not always the 'smoothest' ones. Those Preachers of Justice often shared the fate as prophets, which Scripture already describes: "... *not without honour – save within their own country, their own kin and their own house*". Presenting a new book like today is much more than to present an additional weight of well printed pages, a volume of certain length and width, to be hidden in the shelves of a library. "Paper is patient" – a saying that describes suggestively the lack of changing effect of printed texts. In contradiction to that, the persons presented in the book dared to be involved in their social systems, often uncomfortable reminders, advocates, lawyers of a more just and peaceful society. VERITAS and IUSTITIA = Dogmatic and Social Ethics: in biblical tradition they form an inseparable unity. May the honour given to the witnesses of Social Ethics, that publication mentions, encourage all well known and unknown prophets - and prophetesses (!) - of our Dominican Family today! Knowing some of the authors of the articles of this volume and regarding other convincing contemporaries of our Order, I can imagine a continued second and hopefully third enlarged edition, appreciating their work of preaching Gods compassionate Love, the real biblical meaning of "Justice".