

### **"Marie-Dominique Chenu" Institute**

*Dominican Research Centre for Philosophy and  
Theology in Europe – ESPACES-Berlin*

In June 2000 the Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Provinz of Teutonia in Northern Germany requested *ESPACES* to undertake the foundation of an academic Institute for Philosophy and Theology in Berlin (Chapter Acts No. 106). Just over half a year later, the rooms in the new centre in downtown Berlin were ready for occupation.

At the moment, Fr. Ulrich Engel and Fr. Thomas Eggensperger (both from the Province of Teutonia) work for *ESPACES-Berlin*, together with Fr. Javier Martínez Contreras from the Province of Hispania.

The Institute has been called after the French Dominican Marie-Dominique Chenu

(1895- 1990), a renowned medievalist, a keen observer of the social-economic "Signs of the Times" and a committed theologian of the Second Vatican Council. The goal of the work of the German ESPACES office is to discern, to analyse fundamentally and to discuss the socio-political processes in Germany and Europe as regards their social, political and cultural consequences, from the standpoint of Berlin. This takes place through publications, academic congresses and study conferences, as well as, to a certain extent, through lectures.

We are looking for an open dialogue with all interested parties; at the same time, we refer critically, yet expressly to the philosophical and theological content of the Western Christian tradition, and, within that, the Dominican tradition. In terms of contents, the academic work of the Institute focuses on the following areas of research: philosophical-theological work on reasons for faith and passing on the faith in the context of the Second Modern / Postmodern periods; philosophical-theological investigations about aesthetics in the context of a world linked together by the media; reflections on social and ecclesiastical transformation processes in Germany and Europe in historical and contemporary perspective; contributions to political philosophy and to ethical questions.

Planning seminars will be held to work out the precise arrangement of the research. In 2001, experts in the fields of Philosophy, Theology, Social Studies, Human Sciences and Politics will be invited to these seminars.

The "Marie-Dominique Chenu" Institute is an institute associated with the Social Studies Faculty of the Università S. Tommaso d'Aquino (Angelicum), Rome. To undertake its work, ESPACES-Berlin is dependent on donations, means from third parties (subsidies), and the involvement of sponsors.

We are pleased to get into contact with all those in Europe – whether inside or outside the Dominican Order – who are interested in academic co-operation and collaboration.

Fr. Ulrich Engel o.p.

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