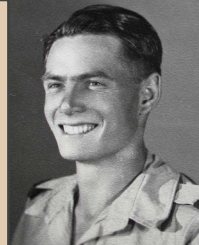


MARIA 'DOMITILLA' HYAMS NEE ROTA
(7 MAY 1918 – 18 JANUARY 2011)

DANIEL 'DANNY' GEORGE HYAMS
(1 JUNE 1921 – 28 DECEMBER 2012)

hyamscause.org.za



We are pleased to present to you the maiden issue of a quarterly Newsletter showcasing the life and times of the servants of God – Domitilla and Danny Hyams. The couple are the late founders of the Little Eden Society in Johannesburg. Their recognition as Servants of God by the Dicastery (Congregation) for Causes of Saints in the Vatican is a ray of hope for the Catholic Church in South Africa that only few years ago celebrated her 200 years.

This Newsletter is the brainchild of the executive committee of the Hyams cause headed by our dear Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, OMI. We trust that this medium will provide you with ample relevant material for reflection and that you will be inspired by the life of the servants of God Domitilla and Danny Hyams in their journey to sainthood. We welcome you to join us in praying for the success of their cause to sainthood.

WE ARE THE HANDS OF GOD

It is the will of God the Father that all men and women made according to the divine image be saved (see Gen 1:26-27) and come to the knowledge of the truth (see 1 Tim 2:4), which is Christ, the way for all to the Father (see Jn 14:6). This path definitely is a path to holiness and sanctity which require strong faith to follow.

The life of the servants of God to holiness no doubt was inspired by the word of God. The hunger for sanctity helped them grow in faith which manifested in the way and manner they touched lives of the most vulnerable of the society. Their mission was to do good and to succeed, they understand that to do good is divine hence they dedicated their hands to God. "We are they hands of God" they will always say in line with the words of the

psalmist, "When you open your hands all creatures are filled with goodness" (Psalm 104: 28; 145:16). We receive through fellow humans the goodness of God.

The Servants of God – Domitilla and Danny Hyams manifested in their life time such strong faith that shines light on our path as "we walk in the dark with faith" (Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, OMI).

JOURNEY TO SAINTHOOD

The journey to sainthood for every Christian starts by responding positively to the faith. It is a call to the life of holiness which is a Christian vocation. Christ says: "You must therefore be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). It follows then that all Christians are called to be saints. Saints are persons in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation.

It was in this light that the attention of the church in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg was drawn few years ago to a couple in Edenvale who had led an



exemplary Christian life. Their lives have been a source of edification to many who over the years have witnessed the deep faith of the couple, their devotion and practice of Christian virtues, especially compassion, to a heroic degree. Their exemplary fidelity to each has been a source of inspiration to the young and old. Their hearts flooded with the love of God.

Theirs stands out as another outstanding example of good Christian formation received from parents, teachers and pious catholic practices. We must understand that early formation of a childhood goes a long way in moulding social personality of individuals. The book of proverbs affirms this when it says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6 RSV).

Every passing day draws the Servants of God closer to sainthood. As the testimonies of their virtuous life continue to soar, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) in the August 2018 plenary session gave their approval for Archbishop Buti Joseph Tlhagale OMI of Johannesburg to proceed with "the process of the Cause for Beatification of Mrs Domitilla and Mr Danny Hyams as couple".

Formal petitions (Libellus) to open the Cause for both Domitilla and Danny Hyams were presented to his Grace, the Archbishop during the course of 2018. (A Libellus consists of the biographical review of the person whose Cause is being considered including a review of his/her heroic cardinal and theological virtues as well as his/her reputation of holiness. In addition the Libellus includes a listing of all people who personally knew the person and who could be called upon at the

witness inquiry stage.)

Following approval from the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference to proceed with this Cause, this documentary evidence concerning Domitilla and Danny was submitted to the Vatican (Congregation for the Causes of Saints) for approval to proceed to the next step which is the diocesan interviewing of the witnesses and a review of all written materials by an historical commission.

We are glad to say that at this stage with the Nihil Obstat issued by the Congregation on the couple: Maria 'Domitilla' Hyams nee Rota on 15 July 2019 and that of Daniel George Hyams on 26 September 2019 they are now officially referred to Servants of God. These Nihil Obstat declarations now open the way for the next step towards beatification, viz the Diocesan Inquiry.

The process of inquiry is presently on going. It is now our duty as faithful to continue to pray for the success of their Cause.

PRELIMINARY APPOINTMENTS

As the Cause is set in motion, the Archbishop has made the following appointments and approval as required by law.

Recall that on April 10, 2021 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Johannesburg, His Grace, Archbishop Buti Tihagale OMI presided over a mass where the officials of the Cause appointed did their oath taking. This is a step required by the Law which governs the process of the Causes. The process of the Inquiry of both Servants will include formal interviews with numerous different witnesses which will allow the Archbishop to make a formal submission to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints for their consideration.

1. Postulator and Vice Postulator

These are the advocates of the cause. The postulator is named by the petitioner(s) of the cause with the approval of the diocesan bishop. For the diocesan inquiries the diocesan bishop must approve the postulator. When the case is considered by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the Roman postulator must be approved by the Congregation.

It is the duty of the postulator to see that everything is prepared for the cause to move forward. The postulator or with help of others sees to it that the evidence and list of witnesses, biography, writings if they exist are meticulously prepared for diocesan inquiries. We are glad to say that much has been accomplished in this regard.

2. Promotor of Justice

This must be according to the document Normae Servandae (Norms To Be Observed in inquiries by Bishops in the Causes of Saints), Congregation for the Canonization of Saints, February 7, 1983 "a priest truly expert in theological and canonical matters, as well as in historical matters, in the case of ancient causes"

(NS, no.6). The appointment of a special Promotor of justice for each cause examined in his diocese is because the cause of canonization is not handled by the regular diocesan or regional tribunal.

3. Notary

Is present at all the sessions of interviews of all witnesses, and of having them verify the accuracy of their testimony, correct any mistakes, and sign the corrected transcription. Owing to the burden of being present at all the sessions, there could be more notaries appointed.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER THROUGH DOMITILLA AND DANNY HYAMS

(for private devotion)

Lord God and Father,

inspired by the example of the power of prayer in the lives of Domitilla and Danny in which they lived the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, and through the example of their lives of Christian service to our neighbours with intellectual disabilities, confidently and humbly we beg through their intercession

(state the request)

if this be your sovereign will, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

AMEN.

(In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.)

Those who obtain favours through the intercession of Domitilla and Danny Hyams are requested to notify the Postulator of their Cause at: postulator@domitilladannycause.org

Or Postulator, PO Box 121, Edenvale 1610, South Africa

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE PEOPLE

1. You are encouraged to support the Cause champions of your parish in promoting their Cause.

2. Join in saying the intercessory prayer asking for the success of their Cause.

3. Your financial support will be of great help