

The Nome Static

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Visit us at knom.org

Dear Friend,

On August 8th we celebrate the feast day of St. Dominic. Born in Spain in 1170, St. Dominic was ordained a priest at age 24, and over time discerned a special call to preach the Gospel. In 1216, he gathered a handful of priests and inspired them to share his mission: to know Christ intimately through prayer and rigorous study, and to make Christ known through their preaching. Today, the Order of Preachers, commonly known as the Dominicans, spans the globe and consists of priests, religious men and women, and laypeople, all of whom bear the initials O.P. after their name.

This summer, the Dominicans celebrated 50 years since their arrival at Holy Family Parish in Anchorage. Throughout these five decades, Dominican priests have ministered to communities in the farthest reaches of Alaska. The new Bishop of Fairbanks, Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P., himself a Dominican who served in Anchorage for six years, visited Nome this summer and stopped into KNOM's studio to speak with his flock over the airwaves.

Thanks to your generosity, KNOM can carry on St. Dominic's mission of preaching the Gospel to all who need to hear it. We always keep you in our prayers. Thank you for making the KNOM Radio Mission possible!



Top: Martin Paul of Kalskag singing an original song at KNOM's music festival. Sarah Swartz photo, KNOM.

Bottom Left: Dominicans in Alaska past and present. Photo courtesy of Holy Family Parish in Anchorage, used with permission.

KNOM Hosts First Music Festival

After more than 50 years of broadcasting faith and inspiration, news and information to the people of Western Alaska, KNOM broke new ground this summer and hosted the first KNOM Music Festival on a weekend in June.

Local musicians, indigenous dance groups, and special guests from across Alaska graced a newly constructed stage on KNOM grounds for the event. Each day of the festival began with a prayer led by community elders. Over 300 enthusiastic attendees from Nome and beyond braved chilly winds and cloudy skies to participate in the festival. In addition to the performances on stage, attendees enjoyed fresh-grilled hamburgers, bratwurst, door prizes, and home-baked desserts from members of the community.

The idea of hosting a music festival began when KNOM helped facilitate American Idol

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KNOM: Faith, Inspiration, News and Information for Western Alaska



Top: KNOM staff pictured with music fest performers. Sarah Swartz photo, KNOM.

auditions across Western Alaska in 2023. While helping organize the auditions, KNOM Program Specialist Teresa Trigg built strong relationships with the performers, and many of them returned to perform on KNOM's stage at the festival.

"Seeing how many people attended in person, online, and live on the air was so rewarding. All the work we put into organizing the festival was so successful and the community response has been wonderful," Trigg said.

KNOM would like to thank the City of Nome, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Nome Eskimo Community, Northern Air Cargo, and Lynden Air Cargo for their generous help to make the KNOM Music Festival possible.

For political leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for August 2024

Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

John 6:51-58

The sixth chapter of John's Gospel contains a very long sermon by Jesus on the Bread of Life. As it is read Sunday after Sunday, it might seem like Jesus is saying the same thing over and over again, but this is not the case.

In the first part of his sermon, when Jesus says that he is the Bread of Life, he is using the term "Bread of Life" in the traditional Jewish way, to mean the word, the wisdom, the revelation that comes from God. In today's gospel reading, when Jesus tells us that the bread that he will give is his flesh and blood for the life of the world, he is using the expression in a very different way. He is talking about his presence in the Holy Eucharist. He goes on to tell us that we must eat and drink his Body and Blood if we are to have eternal life.

It is important for us to recognize that every Sunday Jesus comes to us as both kinds of bread: as God's Word and as Holy Communion. Jesus is inviting us to reflect on how we receive the bread of God's word and how we receive the bread that is Jesus' flesh. Do we receive them both with reverence and devotion? Do we take time to be present to both of them?

How will you share the word this week?

— Patrick Tam, 20th Sunday Ordinary Time – August 18, 2024

Charity Lewis Crowned Miss ANB 2024

Charity Lewis was crowned 2024's Miss Alaska Native Brotherhood at the ANB pageant held in June. The event showcased the cultural heritage of two contestants, Victoria Gray and Charity Lewis. Both participated in Miss ANB for the first time.

The pageant began with a welcome from Nome's Mayor, John Handeland. He introduced the contestants as they took to the stage in traditional kuspuk dresses.

Gray took the stage in a purple floral kuspuk originally crafted for her great-grandmother, Carol Piscoya, along with a beaded beret gifted to her by her mother, Kimberly Piscoya-Gray. She also wore earrings and a necklace made in Diomedes with old ivory by the late Roy Piscoya as well as seal slippers made in Shishmaref.

Lewis wore a light blue kuspuk crafted over 40 years ago by her great, great Aunt Josephine lone along with porcupine earrings made by her grandmother, Delia Iyapana. Her hair was braided with red, white, and gold beads and on her feet were seal slippers also gifted to her by her grandmother. According to Lewis, they had not been worn for quite some time.

"My mukluks I had just gotten yesterday. When I got them, they were so hard. I had to wear them for a full hour at work just to break them in," Lewis said. "They haven't been worn since I don't know, 40, 50 years."

After the introductions the contestants were guided through a question and answer segment where they shared the values most important to them. The contestants then returned to a room behind the stage and changed into another outfit, this time elaborate native attire made with various furs.

Shortly after, judges deliberated and announced Lewis as the winner. The two 18 year olds have plans to go to college this fall. Gray plans to major in elementary education at Montana State University so she can return to her community as a math teacher. Lewis plans to pursue a nursing degree at Alaska Pacific University.



Top: ANB pageant contestants, Victoria Gray (left) and Charity Lewis (right) poses for photos with fresh bouquets in hand after the crowning ceremony. Ben Townsend photo, KNOM.

A Berry Special Occasion

The Nome Berry Festival is an annual event where people gather to celebrate different kinds of wild berries in the Nome region. These include strawberries, blueberries, and salmonberries. The festival is typically held during the berry harvesting season, which is at the end of August or early September. However, due to the expected arrival of the MS Westerdam cruise ship, the festival was moved to June 21st, which is also the summer solstice.

The festival takes place at the Nome Recreation Center. The center is filled with different vendors, ranging from showcasing arts and crafts to selling foods. The food vendors offer a variety of products, from jams to baked goods.

Locals enjoy two popular berry desserts. The first is a simple treat of frozen blueberries drizzled with evaporated milk and sprinkled with sugar to your liking. The second, known as Akutaq (a-goo-duk), is a traditional dish with regional variations. While originally made with caribou fat, seal oil, or fish, modern versions substitute Crisco and mix it with berries of choice. Local musicians and dancers provide fun performances for everyone to watch. Overall, the Nome Berry Festival offers a delightful blend of Nome culture, local treats, and entertainment.



Top: A man in a polar bear costume cheered on the plungers. Ben Townsend photo, KNOM.

Bottom: Polar Plunge participants were forced to quickly enter the water as tall waves crashed into them. Ben Townsend photo, KNOM.

Literal Polar Plunge

Nome residents and visitors gathered together on the weekend of the Midnight Sun to participate in the annual Polar Plunge. The only rule for this event is that plungers must dunk their heads under the 41-degree water and get their hair wet. Other plungers had additional rules, such as staying in the icy water for a minute. However, they quickly realized how difficult that goal was, due to how cold and deep the water was but also due to strong winds and currents. After the plunge, participants could warm up by a large bonfire and enjoy reindeer dogs provided by the Nome Rotary Club, hosts of the Nome Polar Plunge.



Top: A bumble bee flies near fireweed in Nome. Miranda B. Musich photo, KNOM.

Fireweed Jelly Recipe - A Jewel From the Wild

In Alaska, the blooming of the top flower of the fireweed indicates the end of summer and the approach of winter. Fireweed Jelly is a delicate rosy pink jewel of clear wobbly jelly with a unique taste - sweet yet tangy, floral yet fruity. Creating this luscious wildflower-infused jelly is a delightful way to capture the essence of summer in a jar. Here's a simple recipe from KNOM staff member Teresa Trigg's grandmother to turn those vibrant blooms into a delicious spread on your hot buttered toast:

Ingredients For Jelly

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups Fireweed Juice
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of sugar
- 3 oz. liquid pectin

Directions For Fireweed Juice: Boil until the color is washed from the flowers. Strain.

- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups firmly packed blossoms
- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups water

Directions:

1. Boil on high until a full rolling boil.
2. Add 3 oz. liquid pectin, bring to full rolling boil for 1 minute.
3. Pour into hot jelly jars and seal.
4. Makes approximately 1 quart.

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