

St. Cecilia Chapter Dominican Laity

"May our lives always witness to others the gifts of our common life as Lay Dominicans"

Laudare

Ordinary Time

October, 2012

"Behold my children, the heritage I leave you....."

-Saint Dominic

"Sculpting Lay Dominicans"

***By Mrs. Marilyn Cox, O.P.—
Formation Director***

Our Lord desires faithful followers, molded for His work. That is why he keeps us in His hands, "sculpting" us, gently forming "the clay" to perfection. Saint Dominic was "sculpted" in Truth, Veritas, the motto of the Order. Being formed in this way requires humility and obedience to God through his servant, Saint Dominic. So, proper formation is vital. That is why our Chapter of Saint Cecilia Lay Dominicans along with others in the Southern Province came together this summer choosing the materials we would use for formation in the Dominican Family.

JOY! That's what I experienced this summer as our core team took on the responsibility of choosing the materials we would use for formation in the Dominican Family. After finding ***Dominican: A Guidebook for Inquirers***, written by two Lay Dominicans in the Western Province, I knew we were on the right path seeking the appropriate materials for the Inquiry and Candidate years.

We all agreed that the materials would include Dominican writers, various video and audio presentations, scripture and catechism readings, and an accountability to the study program.

Come and See:

At our Inquiry "Come and See" gathering in September, each person received orientation and introduction to the Dominican Order, a schedule for the year, a copy of the Twelve Pillars of Dominican Laity (from the Australian Dominicans), a crossword puzzle based on Dominicana, and Saint Dominic's Nine Ways of Prayer. Our new website:

3optn.com, thanks to the efforts of Larry Pryor, has all the assignments available for downloading and printing.

The new mentor program, having final professed and temporary professed aiding the Inquirers, will help in community-building. Assigned a mentor, the Inquirer can call the mentor to answer questions. The mentor and Inquirer pray the Liturgy of the Hours each month together to close the meeting.

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Overview of Inquiry Formation:

Inquirers will not only study the mentioned text, but also read about the history of the Order of Preachers, life of Saint Dominic, the four pillars of Saint Dominic (prayer, study, community, and apostolic work), the mission of the Order, the Rule/Directory of our Chapter, elements of the Liturgy of the Hours, liturgical prayer, contemplative life, preaching, loyalty to the Church, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Dominican Saints. Our year begins in September and ends in May with required community meetings. Summer study and completed assignments are required for Reception ceremony into the Chapter of Saint Cecilia in September.

What is a Dominican?

Understanding the process of formation, the Dominican opens one's unique identity to the four pillars and to the identity of the Order itself. We abandon driving opinions, ego, and thoughts about what being a Dominican is. A Dominican has knowledge and is faithful to the Rule and Statutes of Dominican life. A Dominican integrates the four pillars throughout his whole life. The fullness of becoming Dominican is a life-long pursuit, giving to others the fruits of his contemplation. Because we "become" a Dominican, we are part of the Dominican Family and are members of the Order of Preachers.

Candidate Formation: "Can I live this new life of being a Dominican?"

The Candidate year is yet another deeper call to the living out of the Four Pillars. The candidate is asked to read and study Spiritual Theology by Jordan Aumann, OP. They are also asked to research Dominican Saints in connection with the eight Beatitudes, reporting each month on these saints. This gives good preparation to choosing a Dominican Saint's name for their temporary profession at the end of this year and also preaching is practiced here.. The Rule/Directory is also reviewed this year.

Attendance and Completion of all the Homework Assignments is required!

-Members of the Joint Province-Chapter Formation Team-

Dr. Lana Bastin, O.P. — Provincial Vice-President

Mr. George Bercau, O.P. — Chapter Secretary

Mrs. Marilyn Cox, O.P. — Chapter Formation Director

Mrs. Julie Prickett, O.P. — Asst. to Chapter Formation Director

Mr. Larry Pryor, O.P. — Chapter Webmaster

Mrs. Mary Snow, O.P. — North Carolina Group

Mr. Alan Phillips, O.P. — Texas Group

Cast your net upon the Water...

By Mr. Mike Lucas, O.P.

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eing involved with the RCIA program at St. Stephen Catholic Church for over ten years, I have observed two key trademarks of Catholics: (1) they are very involved or (2) they are not involved in their parish and its mission of evangelization. This year (2012) is the ***Year of Faith and of the new Evangelization***. One thing is for sure, the typical “Christmas and Easter (“C & E”) Catholics” are not involved in the ministries of the Church, yet. We as good Dominicans need to catechize them and assist them in returning to the beauty and bountiful Graces available at daily/Sunday Mass and the Rosary.

Sts. Dominic and Francis spent their lives ministering to the souls of “C & E Catholics” and other non-believers in Europe. ***They touched the fish they caught in their nets.*** We must do the same. All Dominicans cast their nets, daily. What they catch depends on how much effort they put in casting the “net”. In 2012, we are going to renew our Faith and evangelize to a world needing direction and Truth. We have the Truth, as proclaimed in the Gospels, and we have numerous methods of evangelization available. Be creative, Be Catholic, and be involved. Our newsletter and parish activities are a great start. Pope John Paul II invited us as Catholics, during his Pontifical address, “Be not afraid”!

Well, what are we waiting for? Have a bountiful 2012. May almighty God give us the opportunity to spread His Word to all nations: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



What is the “common life” which we as Lay Dominicans share?

- * *We have a common form of prayer: the Liturgy of the Hours*
- * *We have a common apostolate: to be a witness in the market place*
- * *We share in the Dominican charisms: the Pillars of our Order*
- * *We have a common vocation: Study!*

“One cannot share with others what one does not have in oneself.”

- Saint Catherine of Siena

Candidacy Study: “Spiritual Theology”

By Mr. George Bercauw, O.P., Secretary/Editor

In deciding upon the study of the book, *“Spiritual Theology,”* it was the feeling of the Formation Team that the Lay Dominican needed a solid foundation in the Church’s theology, vocabulary, and literature of the spiritual life. While formation guidelines are not intended to impose burdensome requirements, formation studies should aid in forming members to the Dominican way of living-out the charisms of the Order which have as a primary goal the sanctification of her members. Union with God and personal holiness are the goals of the Dominican vocation; whether that vocation is within the cloister, the classroom, or the market place.

Study is of paramount importance to our Dominican vocation. As noted by Fr. James Sullivan, O.P. at our Annual Day of Recollection in 2010, *“If you can’t study, you can’t be a Dominican.”* And, as Fr. Gabriel O’Donnell, O.P. has said, *“Dominican spirituality is reflected in the way in which we think about God, the way in which we pray to God, and in the way we live together in community (both lay and religious).”*

This is where the virtue of study becomes so important to us as Lay Dominicans: both our spiritual path and our witness to the world is about *Truth*. We study to *“learn the Wisdom of God and then to stimulate in others the desire to know God.”* If I may quote another Dominican (whose name I forget), *“Study is a ‘little virtue’ which becomes the gateway to the ‘larger virtues.’”*

The newly developed *Formation Studies* are both ambitious and rigorous...but we should not be intimidated by that; rather, we should ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to seize the opportunity to move beyond the fluff and shallowness of our culture and arise to the opportunity for spiritual and intellectual growth. The importance of a spiritually well-formed and intellectually well-informed laity constitutes what one theologian described as a *“Divine Imperative.”* This is to say: *“Behind the indicative, thou art a “Dominican,” must always stand the imperative to be a “Dominican” —in every sense of the term.”*

The text, *“Spiritual Theology,”* is available for free download from the Motherhouse’s website under the link, *“Resources.”* It is also available for download from the Chapter’s website: 3optn.com. Along with each chapter, there are a series of *Study Questions*. While individual members of each study group are being assigned specific questions for which they are to be prepared to discuss in class, everyone should find the answers to all the questions. Also, everyone is encouraged to review the cited references from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the scriptures. Additional reference material has been provided for those who wish to engage in more in-depth study.



Laudare—Benedicere—Praedicare

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Prayer Before Study

By Saint Thomas Aquinas

Ineffable Creator...

You are proclaimed true font of light and wisdom and primal origin raised high beyond all things.

Pour forth a ray of Your brightness into the darkened places of my mind; disperse from my soul the twofold darkness of sin and ignorance.

You make eloquent the tongues of infants. Refine my speech and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of Your blessing.

Grant to me keenness of mind, capacity to remember, skill in learning, subtlety to interpret, and eloquence of speech.

May You guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to completion.

You who are true God and true Man, Who live and reign, world without end.

-Amen.



Prayer for the Consecration of Our Country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom, which has been its heritage.

Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our president and on all officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity.

Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise and honor you and give our country and ourselves to your sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow prophesied by Simeon, save us from degeneration, disaster, and war.

Protect us from all harm. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you who bore the sufferings of your Son in the depths of your heart, be our advocate. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the will of your divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.

-Amen