

***Dominican Spirituality* by William Hinnebusch, O.P.**

Study Questions for Candidacy Program
Dominican Laity, St. Cecilia Chapter

Chapter 1: Dominican Life

1. What is the first purpose of all branches of the Order of Preachers?
2. Why do you think the Divine Office is so important to Dominican Life?
3. What is the purpose of the practice of poverty in Dominican life? How can we live this as lay members?
4. Why is silence important in Dominican life? How can I cultivate silence in my life?
5. How would you describe *Dominican* devotion to Christ? What aspect(s) of this devotion speak to you particularly?
6. What are some aspects of the Order's devotion to Mary? What place does Our Lady have in my life?

Chapter 2: St. Dominic

1. What are some similarities between St. Dominic's time and our own?
2. What characteristic(s) of the life of St. Dominic particularly appeal to you?
3. What are some ways lay Dominicans can imitate Our Holy Father St. Dominic?
4. What is one way I can increase my devotion to our founder?

Chapter 3: Contemplation

1. How would you characterize the relationship between contemplation and the apostolate in Dominican life?
2. How can we avoid the extremes of activism and “contemplative selfishness” that St. Thomas Aquinas warns us about?
3. What are some challenges you face in living a life of prayer? What are some things that you could do that might help?
4. What are some ways I can live the Order’s practice of contemplative prayer / study / apostolic life?
5. What areas of my life are in need of greater balance?

Chapter 4: The Apostolate

1. How would you explain the statement “Preaching is the fruit of the life of prayer”?
2. What are the dangers of an apostolic life not rooted in prayer?
3. How did the lives of St. Dominic and St. Catherine show their great zeal for souls?
4. What are some opportunities we have in our lives as lay Dominicans in which we, too, can courageously preach the Gospel?
5. Are there any specific needs that you see in your parish or the community in general that could be filled by lay members of the Order of Preachers?

Chapter 5: Liturgy

1. What aspects made St. Dominic's life liturgical?
2. What are the liturgical characteristics of the Dominican Order?
3. Why is the liturgy so important to us as Dominicans?
4. What is one thing I can do to deepen my participation in the liturgy?

Chapter 6: Doctrine

1. Like St. Dominic, we face challenges in our efforts to spread the Truth. What are some of our modern challenges?
2. Why is a life of prayer essential to our mission as Dominicans?
3. What aspects of the faith is our world particularly in need of?
4. St. Dominic preached in the way his contemporaries could understand. What characteristics must our preaching have if it is to be accepted by the people of today?
5. What aspects of the faith would you particularly like to study?

