



Fifth Tuesday in Honor of Saint Dominic
Dominic Converts the Inkeeper

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice

A soul captivated by Christ cannot ignore the enslavement of another in error. Even before his role in founding the Order of Preachers was made manifest to Dominic, his zeal for the Word that he had contemplated impelled him to share with others the Truth that sets us free. His was the hunger and thirst for justice that our Lord called blessed.

Justice is the virtue by which we give to others what is their due. To Dominic and to those who have joined his Order for eight centuries, there is no greater injustice than to deprive a soul of the Truth by Whom and for Whom it was created. While the corporal works of mercy are sorely needed in a world beset by material injustice, the people of our times often stand in even greater need of the spiritual works of mercy. The people of today hunger for the answers that all of humanity has sought, especially for the meaning of our very existence. This hunger cries out for the Truth Who reveals to us that our lives do have a purpose. This hunger cries out for the Love that fulfills our deepest desires.

We are told that our holy father Dominic stayed up debating with the inkeeper all night. Surely Dominic was tired from his arduous journey on foot, worn out from the long roads that led him far from his community in Osma. But in that very place where he chanted the praises of God as a canon regular and where he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the salvation of souls, Dominic's soul was transformed by union with Christ. He became one with the Word he could not contain and enflamed with the zeal that would not let him rest until that Word was known and embraced.

As we travel the paths along which God leads us, we too encounter many people like the inkeeper. So many souls are waiting to hear a voice with authority. Deafened by the din of worldly voices that promise fulfillment through pleasure and self-gratification but fail to deliver, many begin to despair of a voice of authenticity. Many begin to doubt that there is a Truth that saves.

May we, like Saint Dominic, be transformed in prayer so that our zeal might be animated by a fervent and selfless desire to lead souls to Christ. May we share in Dominic's hunger and thirst to bring to a waiting world an authentic preaching of the Gospel—one revealed by how we live as well as by the words we speak. No matter how arduous the journey or how long the road ahead of us, may we find in union with Christ the strength to persevere, even through the whole of humanity's night, in preaching God's Word for His glory and for the salvation of souls.

Saint Dominic, preacher of grace

and burning as a torch for the salvation of sinners, pray for us.