



# Why Dominican?

## **Presentation Notes for Candidacy Module 10: Living with the Particular Directory**

**Note:** The purpose of this module is to build upon the knowledge gained from the study of the Particular Directory in the Inquiry Stage of formation so that the Candidate will have a working knowledge of how the Directory helps a Lay Dominican live the Rule within the particular province of residence. It is assumed that one will conduct a personal review of notes from Inquiry Stage for the entire Directory prior to this session. Because the content of this module is so concept intense, it is recommended that the group be divided into pairs or smaller groups to focus on a particular part of the study before the meeting and to be prepared to report on that section at the meeting. These assignments should consider the size of the group, the ability of the members, and the duration of the meeting. Having time to focus on a section well ahead of time is recommended since the time allotted for the meeting will be diminished by any on-site time for initial reading of the material. It is important for the presenters to decide if actual time at the meeting will be allotted to discussion by the people focusing on the section prior to whole group sharing or if this collaboration is possible before the meeting. The process should be made clear to the participants when the assignments are given.

**Objectives:** At the end of this session, the Candidate will be able to:

1. Identify instances of the practice of the Four Pillars of Dominican Life as they are demonstrated in the specific decisions in the Directory.
2. Analyze the workings of his/her present group/ chapter for conformity to the Directory.
3. Note any changes (including terminology) in the Directory since Inquiry and understand the reasons for and the process that preceded the change.
4. Envision one's own place and potential for growth throughout the various stages of formation and as a Dominican committed to lifelong formation and as an equal to all Dominicans worldwide.

5. Identify the current elected members of the Lay Provincial Executive Council and the various appointed Provincial Promoters in the Province as the leadership service team of the Province.
6. Understand how the Provincial Executive Council receives feedback from and informs the Lay Provincial Council about priorities and initiatives within the Province.
7. Understand the purpose of the sections of the Rites
8. Understand how the democratic nature of the Order is sustained through the community trust built within each group so that new and veteran members of the Order can grow in their vocations as Dominicans.

**Materials:** : printed copies of the Directory, a list of recent changes to the Directory, and a list of Dominican personnel currently serving in elected offices and appointed offices in the Lay Province

**Prayer/Contemplation:** Colossians 1: 9b - 13

**Study:**

1. List the sections of the Directory on the board or poster board remembering that these items need to be emphasized as ways of living the Lay Dominican Life to the fullest. As an example, the sections in the Directory for the Southern Dominican Lay Province at the time of this writing are listed here. They include:
  - a. Basics of Lay Dominican Life
  - b. Structure and Governance of the Chapter by a Council: General Duties, Members, Elections
  - c. Chapter Membership and Formation
  - d. On-going Community Life
  - e. Leaving a chapter, Chapter re-forming, suppression or dissolving
  - f. Provincial Council members and duties ; Executive Council members and duties, elections
  - g. Prior Provincial and conclusion
  - h. Appendices
  - i. Before study begins, be sure that any changes have been incorporated into the copy of the Directory to be used. The study portion of the actual meeting should begin with a group discussion of the changes and the reason for the change.

2. If individuals need to collaborate with others who focused on the same part of the Directory provide that time at this point before moving to the whole group sharing.
3. The instructions before whole group sharing takes place should include reminding everyone that the purpose of the sharing will be an insightful analysis of the assigned part of the Directory. The initial ideas about each section are to be brought forth by those who focused on them while others listen. A brief discussion should follow with all members being able to participate. In this way, a more direct link to the underlying reason for the inclusion of a decision will be evident. Some examples from the Particular Directory of the Southern Dominican Lay Province might include:
  - a. In Section I B, the suggestions for the primary sources of study directly link to the primary purpose of the Order to preach. One must know the topic before one can speak about it from the heart.
  - b. In Section VII F, the purpose of the Interim meeting of the Lay Provincial Council is to involve the members of the larger leadership team (all of the chapter Presidents) in the governance of the Province. This promotes the concepts of equality among all members, giving of one's talents, service to local members rather than a hierarchy-type structure, and democratic decision-making.
4. Each of the sections above or in your Directory should require at least a ten minute report on the connections found. Discussion is encouraged, but should be focused due to time constraints.
5. A somewhat longer discussion would be reasonable to discuss the conformity of the group/ chapter to the information in the Directory on a particular topic.
6. A list of the Provincial Executive Council and Provincial Promoters should be given to Candidates when the section on the Provincial Council is discussed.
7. A few minutes of personal reflection should take place near the end of the meeting to enable the Candidates to consider his/her own place and potential for growth in the Dominican Order.

**Community:** Open sharing of one's gifts as well as reservations or questions one might have about the governance of the group/ chapter should be encouraged as a way to form an authentic community of peers. This is a critical concept in the life of a Dominican. Dominicans search for truth when challenges arise. If either personal or collective shortcomings are discovered, an attempt to put these in a positive perspective rather than ignored or just accepted should be made.

**Apostolate:** A review of the Directory often leads to a personal unveiling of one's shortcomings. The Candidates should be encouraged to view these negative inclinations

as opportunities for personal conversion of heart so that one can preach the Gospel more authentically.

**Conclusion:** : Remind the Candidates that the Directory is a reference material that need not be memorized, but rather used as a help in growing in understanding of how to live as a Lay Dominican. The journey is a lifelong one and both the Rule and Directory are guideposts to be used in small increments along the way.

**Assignment:** The assignment will depend on when this module was presented during Candidacy. If it is the last module in the Candidacy Stage, then the specific information for the discernment retreat including procedures for the interview should be given to the Candidates. If this module is presented earlier in the Candidacy Stage, the presenters should either distribute the Study Guide for the next session if that has already been determined or inform the group when that decision will be made. It is reasonable both to assess the progress of the group informally in order to decide which module will best fit their needs and to include their input in the decision unless the Provincial formation Team directs you to do otherwise.