



Why Dominican?

Presentation Notes for Candidacy Module 1:

History of the Order / Symbols and Traditions of the Order

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

1. Highlight specific important events in the history of the Order of Preachers.
2. Articulate a fundamental interpretation of the terms “Third Order” and “Tertiary” as they apply to a modern understanding of Dominican Lay life.
3. Express a fundamental understanding of the mottos of the Order as well as some of the traditions associated with the Order and St. Dominic.

Materials: Chalk/chalkboard or marker/poster board

Prayer/Contemplation: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Study:

1. Using the chalkboard, make a column for each time period of the history of the Order such as:
 - a. Middle Ages
 - b. Modern Period (up to French Revolution)
 - c. Contemporary Period
2. Starting with the Middle Ages, make a list based on the reading assignment and knowledge of the participants of some acts of importance that aided in the development of the Order over time.
3. Repeat this process for each of the remaining time periods.
4. From each column, have the group pick the one event they feel had the most impact on the history/development of the Order. Allow about 30 minutes for this activity. Encourage short discussions on each of the three “chosen” events and why each was important.
5. List these three mottos on the board:
 - a. To Praise, To Bless, To Preach
 - b. Veritas/Truth
 - c. To contemplate and to give to others the fruits of contemplation

6. Encourage a brief description of each motto from the group. (Allow about 10 minutes.)
7. Discuss how the mottos may have influenced the listed events from the previous activity about the development of the Order.
8. Have the group share favorite “traditions” of the Order. Encourage discussion of why the tradition made an impact on each Candidate who chooses to share. (Allow about 10 minutes)
9. Have the Candidates recall why they initially became interested in the Order. They can write this down privately or share aloud with the group or both.
10. Extend the discussion to include the impact the mottos or traditions of the Order might have had in each Candidate’s initial attraction to the Order. (Allow about 10 minutes)

Community: Encourage group sharing, respecting everyone’s contribution. Asking probing questions that encourage the group to think is very helpful. Don’t be afraid of a short silence... allow participants to think and process as the conversation develops.

Apostolate: As a facilitator, try to connect each person’s sharing to living/preaching God’s Word. If possible, connect shared experiences between the lives of Dominican saints and the Candidates.

Conclusion: Conclude the discussion and the session with a comment about the opportunities that God provides for each of us to grow in our faith. Discerning a vocation, whether to the Order or a career, is an opportunity for personal growth. Reinforce that participation in these sessions is a good way to develop necessary discernment skills. At the Candidacy level of formation, there is a firm commitment to one year. Reassure the Candidates that there are others ready and able to assist in supporting the discernment process.

End the session by inviting the group to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Each person should have his/her own copy of whatever the group has decided to use in community.

Follow Up: There are many different sources on the history and traditions of the Order. Encourage the Candidates to further their study of these traditions throughout the formation program. The Presentation Handout may be used for information or further research on the traditions and symbols of the Order.

Assignment: Distribute the Study Guide with the reading assignment for the next session.