



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Candidacy Module 2: Liturgical Prayer

The purpose of the Candidacy phase of formation is to provide individuals with the opportunity to participate in continued discernment of Dominican life as a lay person. Essential to this process is an understanding of the place that liturgical prayer especially the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist/Mass have in the life of a Dominican. This study session will focus on sharing ways to deepen our personal response to God through praying the Liturgy of the Hours and participating in the Eucharist/Mass so that we may be better able to share the Good News we have received with others.

PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to accept the richness of these universal prayers of the Catholic Church. In your journal, jot down some personal information about your faithfulness to praying the Liturgy of the Hours and participating in the Eucharist/Mass. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you decide specific ways to enrich your prayer life through these prayers. Consider options such as designating a definite time for morning and evening prayer at home or with others at church or joining with others at daily Mass. Jot down the results of your contemplation.

STUDY

The basic beliefs and procedures about the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist/Mass are foundational knowledge in Catholicism and, therefore, not the emphasis of this session. The first two readings listed here are presented for personal review and are to be read at whatever level is personally desired. They will not be studied in-depth, but referred to as needed in the general discussion.

Liturgy of the Hours: “The General Instructions for the Liturgy of the Hours”, Sacred Congregation of Divine Worship, 1971, available at:
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/curia/cdwgilh.htm>

Abbreviated instructions are also available in the introductory parts of books used for praying the Liturgy of the Hours and at many web sites including www.divineoffice.org.

The Eucharist/Mass: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery in the Catechism of the Catholic Church available at:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a3.htm

The main reading for this study session will address the use of praying the Liturgy of the Hours as a tool in one's spiritual growth. It is a letter from the current Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadore' called "Letter on the Liturgical Celebration of the Hours" available at

http://www.op.org/sites/www.op.org/files/public/documents/fichier/cadore_letter_hours-en.pdf.

As you read his letter to the friars, journal your thoughts in answer to the question: "What modifications must the Dominican Laity make that reflect our state in life in response to fr. Bruno's suggestions for praying the Liturgy of the Hours?" Also review the appropriate parts of the Rite of Temporary Promise/Profession and Permanent Promise/Profession and contemplate the connection between the life of a member of the Dominican Laity and praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

In addition, you will need to attend a Eucharistic celebration/Mass, perhaps in addition to your regular schedule of Mass attendance. At this Mass, you will be an observer/student more than a participant/worshipper. (While this may seem a bit unusual, it is similar to the mind set of a transitional deacon as he learns the rubrics of the Mass before ordination.) You will be able to use the Study Guide Supplement to take notes. This Study Guide Supplement is based on fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP's book *Why Go to Church?*, Continuum Press, New York: 2008. It and the quotes from this book to be used in the general discussion at the study session are used with his explicit written permission. It is recommended that you read this book in its entirety in order to gain the maximum benefit from it. This is the type of book to be savored and read slowly over time, however, and, therefore, is not listed as an assigned reading. You may want to check out book reviews of it, read excerpts from a library copy, or purchase your own copy for further reading at your own pace.

The actual study session will be in two parts. The first part will be just for the Dominicans to discuss fr. Bruno's letter and the Liturgy of the Hours. The second part will be a more general session and may include members of the parish, the wider Catholic community, or those from other congregations to discuss the Eucharist/ Mass. The Formation Team will involve you in deciding the specific details of this second part of the meeting.

COMMUNITY

Dominicans foster community not only within the smaller Dominican community and the larger Dominican Order, but also within the parish to which they belong, the larger community of the Catholic Church, and congregations of other religions. Work with the

Formation Team to plan a discussion of the Eucharist/Mass with the larger community either for this session or later in the year.

APOSTOLATE

Assess your own commitment, interest, and available time to participate in a type of book club study of fr. Timothy's book. Sharing one's personal experiences about the Eucharist/Mass in a more structured group setting would be an excellent way to preach the Good News close to home. Considering a parish wide "book club" on selected books is also a great opportunity for an apostolate.