



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Candidacy Module 4: Dominican Saints and Blesseds

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 familiarity with how other Dominicans have lived this life, especially those the Church has identified as Saints and Blesseds.

PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

As you prepare to learn more about Dominicans who have been elevated to the distinction of saintly role models by the Church, ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you concerning the opportunities in your life that may be similar to those in theirs. Begin your research by praying the Litany of Dominican Saints which is available at <http://www.op-stjoseph.org/litur-litany.html> . Bring a copy of this litany to the study meeting.

STUDY

The presenters will have already involved you in the choice of which of the saints and blesseds will be your particular focus and which ones will be shared by the entire group. At a minimum, it is recommended that each person look at one of the more well known saints such as Catherine of Siena, Thomas Aquinas, Martin, or Rose of Lima as well as one of the lesser known ones. As you research their lives, concentrate on answering three questions:

1. What was transpiring in the world and in the Church at the time this person lived?
2. How does it seem that this person both used his/her talents as well as cooperated with the Holy Spirit in the choices he/she made?
3. In what ways did this person live the pillars of Dominican life or exemplify its mottos?

The following resources are good starting points for your research:

1. <http://www.domcentral.org/trad/default.htm#saints>
2. <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>
3. Dorcy, Sr. Mary Jean. *St. Dominic's Family*. Tan books and Publishers, 2009.

COMMUNITY

Although a “book report” kind of sharing will not be used during the actual study session, it is important that such a wealth of information be shared. Be prepared to interact with the other Candidates and perhaps other members of the Chapter or group in both contributing information and asking questions concerning the people who are being studied. Your notes

from answering the questions above should be sufficient for the study session. How the group or chapter will decide to share information more formally afterwards should be a community decision.

APOSTOLATE

It is the Church's decision that the people you are studying have lived the Dominican life to its fullest and thus have been identified as saints or blessed. In conjunction with your focus on the pillar of apostolate (preaching), try to identify how each person you studied was involved in preaching. Consider any parallels in today's world.