



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Candidacy Module 6: The Dominican Approach to Sacred Scripture and Tradition

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 important place of Sacred Scripture and Tradition, not only in Catholicism, but especially in the lives of all those who belong to the Order of Preachers.

PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

As you prepare to study this topic of Scripture and Tradition, ask the Holy Spirit to enkindle in you a hunger to know God more clearly through the pathway of the Word of God revealed in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. Begin by journaling. Ask yourself to describe the place Sacred Scripture has in your life right now by assessing the amount of time you spend reading and contemplating scriptural texts each day or week. Also take a moment to describe your view about the place of Tradition in the body of Truth proclaimed by the Catholic Church.

STUDY

This study session will focus on expanding ways to interact with Sacred Scripture as an essential component of the mission/apostolate of Dominicans to preach. The basic beliefs about Sacred Scripture and Tradition in Catholicism are foundational knowledge and, therefore, not the emphasis of this session. Exploration and discussions by Catholics about relevant sub-topics such as what constitutes the teaching authority of the Church are necessarily on-going and often controversial. Credentials of writers should be examined carefully. It is recommended, therefore, that the readings listed here that are more doctrinally focused be optional and the subject of a personal review. If the Formation Team feels it necessary, they can add to the readings below for a separate, open discussion at a different time.

Some beginning readings for re-visiting foundational knowledge include:

1. "Scripture and Tradition" in the Catechism of the Catholic Church available at:
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s1c2a2.htm
2. "A Fundamental Challenge: Three Ways to Combat Biblical Literalism" by Brian Pinter. America, Sept. 11, 2011, available at:
http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=13002
3. "The Church Has Received from Christ the Gift of the Magesterium" by Br. Mariano D. Veliz, OP, available at:

http://www.opsouth.org/news/more/the_church_has_received_from_christ_the_gift_of_the_magisterium_through_the/

4. “Infallibility” in the Original Catholic Encyclopedia available at <http://oce.catholic.com/index.php?title=Infallibility>
5. Other selections from the Catechism of the Catholic Church such as “The Teaching Office” available at http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p123a9p4.htm and also “Moral Life and the Magisterium of the Church” available at http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c3a3.htm#I

The main readings for this study session address the use of Sacred Scripture as a tool in one’s spiritual growth and preaching. The Formation Team will alert you to any articles or sections of a reading that will receive special emphasis during the study session. You are also encouraged to contribute current articles from periodicals, newspapers, and other sources that are pertinent to this focus. This session is intimately connected to the module “Study and the Passion for Preaching” and, therefore, they have reading materials that are especially complementary.

For this session, please read the following material. You may want to read one section per week until the next study session. Journal your thoughts after reading each section. Attending to the questions posed throughout the second source is highly recommended.

1. “Using Scripture in Prayer and Spiritual Direction” by Richard M. Gula, SS in *Spirituality Today*: Winter 1984, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 292-306 available at: <http://www.spiritualitytoday.org/spir2day/843641gula.html>
2. *I Put My Words into Your Mouth* by fr. Brian Pierce OP, Victor Morales and the Dominican Team, 1995, 2002. This material is shared with the explicit written permission of fr. Brian Pierce, OP and made available by him as a Study Guide Supplement for this module. It is not to be reprinted or distributed for use outside of *Why Dominican?* unless you obtain fr. Brian’s written permission.
 - a. “The Word Becomes a People” pages 7 – 14
 - b. “Take Off Your Sandals” pages 19 – 24
 - c. “Searching for the Party: Biblical Context” pages 25 - 32

The rest of this Study Guide Supplement will be used in Module 8 “Study and the Passion for Preaching.”

COMMUNITY

It is a wise investment of time to develop a genuine hunger for Truth. Dig deeper as you pursue knowledge of a subject. Weigh opposing opinions carefully as you read and as you enter into discussions. Approaching intellectual “bumps in the road” as part of the journey will minimize any personal feelings of not being at ease. Receiving another’s viewpoint in discussion with thoughtful questioning rather than a personal attack will foster a community spirit in which you will be treated with respect as well. Respect for all, regardless of his/her ability to articulate or defend ideas in a discussion, will build a true spirit of community.

APOSTOLATE

This session provides ways to expand one’s view of Sacred Scripture. Just before the scheduled study session, journal your final thoughts about how the suggestions in the reading material have influenced your approach to Scripture and to preaching.