



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Candidacy Module 7:

Dominican Community and Governance

The purpose of the Candidacy phase of formation is to provide individuals with an opportunity to participate in continued discernment to Dominican life as a layperson. Essential to this task is a thorough understanding of Dominican governance. Although you have been exposed to Dominican forms of government through an overview of the Rule and Particular Directory in the Inquiry Stage, it is important to understand the rationale that supports and fuels Dominican governance more fully in order to make a commitment to the Dominican Laity.

PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

Before beginning your study, ask God to instill in you a desire for openness to new ideas, positive ways to voice a differing opinion, and the fortitude to develop a well-formed conscience.

STUDY

Read the following:

- “Freedom and Responsibility” in [Sing a New Song](#) by Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Templegate Publishers, 1999, pp. 82- 120 or through access at: http://www.dominicains.ca/english/Documents/masters_order/Radcliffe/government.htm (used by permission of author); (note unusual spelling in this link)
- A brief 2 page overview of the structure of government of the friars available at: <http://english.op.org/Government.html> and http://english.op.org/Government_2.html

COMMUNITY

As you read fr. Timothy’s letter/article, make a list of qualities to be fostered in Dominican individuals and groups of individuals in order to make the ideal of Dominican governance into a reality.

APOSTOLATE

As you read fr. Timothy’s letter/article, make a list of ways that you have seen Dominican government working to fulfill the mission of the Order, that is, bringing forth the Word of God.