



Why Dominican?

Candidacy Module 7: Dominican Community and Governance

**Presentation Handout 1: Quotes taken from “Freedom and Responsibility”
by fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP, available at:**

http://www.dominicans.ca/english/Documents/masters_order/Radcliffe/government.htm

(These quotes and questions are used with the written permission of the author.)

Directions: Please read the following terms and quotes. Refer to them and make notes as needed in the step by step discussion of governance in the Order of Preachers.

- “Spirituality of government”
- “The beginning of all good government is attentiveness, listening together for the Word of God, opening our ears to the needs of the people.”
- “Good government depends upon a right living of our relationships of power, authority and responsibility.”
- “Every brother (member) has power in what he (she) says or does not say, and by what he/she does or does not do.”
- “Good government works well when we acknowledge and respect the authority that each brother (member) has, and refuse to absolutise any single form of authority.
- “Fundamental to our democracy is that we dare to speak truthfully to each other, that we dare to bring to word the tensions and conflicts that hurt the common life and impede the common mission.”
- “Democracy for us is more than voting to discover what is the will of the majority. It also involves discovering what is the will of God.”
- “Our tradition of giving each brother (member) a voice and a vote is not always the most efficient at arriving at the best decisions, but it is a witness to evangelical values that we offer to the Church, and which the Church needs now more than ever.”
- “If we are to be truly the heirs of Dominic’s freedom, then we must identify the responsibility that is properly ours and grasp it. We must articulate the relationship between the different levels of government in the Order.”
- “the mystery of disappearing responsibility”