



Why Dominican?

Presentation Notes for Candidacy Module 8: Study and the Passion for Preaching

Objectives: At the end of this session, the Candidate will be able to:

1. Identify certain concepts about study that make it an effective tool in personal spiritual growth and the transformation of the human heart.
2. Better understand that study is the foundation for successful preaching and evangelization.
3. Better understand the scope of preaching by Dominicans world-wide.
4. Identify possible audiences for their own preaching.
5. Follow a basic outline to formulate a beginning preaching.
6. Recognize the value of community in one's study and the preparation of a preaching.
7. Listen to and provide constructive feedback on another's preaching.
8. Listen to another's feedback receptively and incorporate change into one's beginning preaching.
9. Work on a collaborative preaching.

Materials: chalk/chalk board or chart/markers; pre-made chart or handout or board listing of the 5 frontiers, 4 priorities of the Order, and the characteristics of preaching and attitudes of the preacher from fr. Carolos and outlines from fr. Brian's text

Prayer/Contemplation: 1 Peter 3: 15

Study:

1. Begin the whole group discussion by identifying some concepts about study encouraged by fr. Timothy by his statement that "Study can never be just the training of the mind; it is the transformation of the human heart".
2. Discuss fr. Timothy's belief that a life of study is a way to holiness, a way to nourish hope, a way to learn to listen, and a way to build community.

3. Since teaching is a type of preaching, discuss some God-like characteristics of teachers that we should try to attain. Connect this concept to the attitudes of the preacher that fr. Carlos mentions using the pre-made chart or handout or list.
4. Connect this approach to learning to fr. Brian's views about both curiosity and that a preacher sees and hears from the inside out.
5. Invite the participants to share their thoughts about how, according to fr. Timothy, the purpose of "our studies is not merely to impart information but to bring Christ to birth in our world."
6. Address fr. Bruno's perspective on "what gathers us (Dominicans) and brings us together" is "the grace of the Word of God, the Word's truth and strength, its life and mercy" rather than our particular ministry.
7. Based on the readings and contemplation, invite the participants to brainstorm some relevant and specific audiences for preaching particularly in their community and part of the world. List these on the board or chart and discuss each one briefly.
8. Ask someone to re-read the Scriptural text that will be the basis for the preaching to be crafted while everyone else listens.
9. Whoever was assigned to analyze the text should provide a short summary for the rest of the group.
10. Ask the participants to share their previous contemplation about a possible central theme of the reading from Scripture.
11. Depending on the number in the total group and the number of diverse themes, select some themes to be pursued. Ask each person to choose a theme and then divide the themed group into pairs, triads, or smaller groups.
12. The task will be for each person to use fr. Brian's guidelines (pages 49-54) to craft an individual preaching based on either his outline A or B. Allow sufficient time for some beginning thoughts and ideas to be put on paper.
13. Each person should share those early beginnings with his/her partners or group members. Encourage each person to listen attentively.
14. Positive feedback as well as suggestions for re-thinking should be shared.

Community: The community aspect of active listening and then guiding in a respectful manner should be encouraged. Working with another or the smaller group to

combine thoughts and first efforts into a collaborative preaching is also an optional next step in this process.

Apostolate: Volunteers who feel comfortable sharing these beginning preachings should be encouraged to do so aloud with the entire group.

Follow-up: Participants, either individually or in a small group should be encouraged to post their more polished sharings to others in the group after the meeting.

It is also recommended that the participants reflect on the group's activity in two ways:

1. Finish reading fr, Brian's suggestions from pages 55 – 76.
2. Use the Presentation Handout of the word cloud for preaching for further contemplation. It was formulated from other Dominicans' responses to the prompt: "As a Dominican, how do you live your passion for preaching?"

Note: All Dominicans are encouraged to send a brief answer to that prompt to siteadmin@whydominican.net. They will be included in the next posting of the word cloud on preaching. You may do so anonymously or by adding your name and community. Submissions will be included in a pdf file called "Passion for Preaching" on the *Why Dominican?* web site.

Assignment: Distribute the Study Guide for the next session.