



# Why Dominican?

## Presentation Notes for Inquiry Module 10: The Particular Directory

Note: Each Particular Directory is designed to aid the members of a particular lay province to live the common Rule according to certain characteristics and emphasis of that specific locality. The study of your Directory should proceed section by section according to its specific organization. The Particular Directory of the Southern Dominican Lay Province was used as a model for this module. Please incorporate the spirit of the strategies used and modify them to match the content of the Directory that is followed in your province if that is applicable.

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

1. Have an overview of the development of the Rule.
2. Articulate that a Particular Directory contains information about how the Rule is to be lived within the confines and authority of a specific Lay Province.
3. Understand that the Rule is the standard which governs all those living as Lay Dominicans world-wide; a Directory governs those within a certain province in accordance with the Rule, but varies from province to province.
4. Connect the Preface of the Directory and the section on the Basics of Lay Dominican Life to the instruction already received in the Four Pillars of Dominican Life.
5. Parallel the workings and governance of his/her present group/ chapter with the section on the Structure and Government of a Chapter and be informed of the reason for any deviation.
6. Understand how the laity is incorporated into the Order and progresses through several stages of formation.
7. Understand how the life of a group/chapter is sustained through participation of its members and what the options are for members or chapters who do not contribute to the well being of the Order.
8. Understand that the Lay Province is governed by a Lay Provincial Council and how that Council is elected and operates.
9. Understand the special suggestions to be considered after the death of a member, with celebrating feast days within the Order, and at Rites or ceremonies.

10. Understand how the democratic nature of the Order is sustained through the community trust built within each group/chapter and throughout each lay province.

**Materials:** each participant should have his/her own copy of the Directory, a “family tree” handout (perhaps from the session on the Rule) listing the structure of the Order with an emphasis on your particular lay province, and a list of Dominican personnel currently serving in elected offices

**Prayer/Contemplation:** John 10: 11-18

**Study:**

1. Begin by explaining the “family tree” handout that lists the branches of the Order and focuses on the province in which you live. Establish the connection between the Master and the Laity.
2. It is important to explain the difference and the connection between the Rule and the Directory. In discussing the Rule, spend just a little time in its brief history.
3. Discuss its purpose of the Directory as stated in the Preface.
4. Discuss the Basics of Lay Dominican life (the four pillars) in light of the particular people and practices in the group/ chapter.
5. Identify the people by name in the elected positions in the group/ /chapter and match their duties with those listed.
6. Discuss how formation is carried out and how decisions are made in the group/ chapter. Be sure to explain any deviation from the Directory.
7. Discuss incorporation into the Order and when during formation one begins to support the group/ chapter and lay province financially through an assessment fee and when one becomes eligible to vote.
8. Be sure the progression and length of each formation stage is clearly understood.
9. Briefly mention the procedure that is followed when a member or a chapter is not in conformity with the Directory so that the seriousness of a lifelong commitment is emphasized.
10. Connect the names of the current Provincial Executive Council officers to the office and duties listed in the Directory.
11. Briefly describe the duties of the Provincial Council.
12. Note that the voting procedure for these offices are prescribed and conformity is taken seriously.
13. Identify the person and duties of the group’s Religious Assistant as well as the Provincial Promoter.
14. Discuss the appendices and the need to know their contents in a general way.
15. One of the most important things to be sure that the Inquirers understand is the nature of the democracy that is formed within the entire Order. Throughout the Order, peers

are elected to govern for relatively brief periods of time and then return among their peers to be governed by the collective action of the peers.

**Community:** Be sure to point out that heart-to-heart knowledge of one's peers is needed for this democratic form of governance to be effective.

**Apostolate:** Note that practicing what one preaches as the Word of God requires conversion of heart and living the Gospel personally and authentically.

**Follow-up:** Since this the last modules for the Inquiry Stage, it is the time to discuss proceeding to the next stage of formation. Be sure to remind the Inquirers of the specific procedures that are followed within the group/chapter and lay province. It is recommended that the plans include a retreat type of experience and perhaps self-reflection questions to help each Inquirer discern whether he/she feels called to continue to the Candidacy Stage. The decision is a mutual one. Also remind the Inquirers that continuing to the Candidacy Stage involves a year- long commitment.