



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Inquiry Module 3:

The Vocation of The Laity in The Order of Preachers

The purpose of the Inquiry phase of formation is to provide individuals an opportunity to begin discerning a vocation to the lay Dominican life. It is essential that the individual understand the active contemplative life of a lay Dominican is a call from God, a true vocation.

PRAYER/CONTEMPLATION

In your prayer time, ask God to impress upon your heart a true understanding of your vocation. Review your journal notes from the beginning of the inquiry phase to now. Ask yourself:

- In what ways have you changed your life?
- Were these easy changes, or did you experience some real challenges?
- In what areas were you not able to achieve change?
- What are some of the fruits of your prayer life since beginning the program?

STUDY

Read the following:

- Chapters 1 – 5 in *Dominican Laity in the Year 2000*, by Anthony Dao, OP, available at http://www.magnificatpress.com/pdf/Dao_web.pdf
- Article “Dominican Spirituality and Vatican II ‘s Expectations of Lay People” by Richard Kiesling OP available at <http://www.domcentral.org/oplaity/layspirit.htm>

As you read the five chapters for this assignment, jot down the most important topics discussed by fr. Dao that made a marked impression on your study.

After reading the article, journal about your level of agreement with fr. Kiesling:

- on the statement “The role of the laity in this apostolate cannot be conceived, moreover, merely as executing the directives of the clergy”.
- your active participation in “planning and carrying out” the mission of the church in the various aspects of your life.

COMMUNITY

Once you become professed as a lay Dominican, you become an equal member of the Order of Preachers alongside the friars (priests and brothers), cloistered nuns, and apostolic sisters. Fr. Kiesling states that it is by the Dominican Laity that the spirituality developed by St. Dominic and his disciples down through the ages “moves out into the world to contribute to the coming of God’s reign over all creation”. How does your present view of becoming a member of the Order of Preachers match this stance of equality in this mission?

APOSTOLATE

Fr. Kiesling closes his article with a powerful statement about the mission of the Dominican Laity within the Church. He calls the Dominican Laity “a force for the reform and renewal of the Church sought by Vatican Council II.” How does your present view of yourself fit with the mission/apostolate of the Order of Preachers to preach as a way to reform and renew the Church?