



Why Dominican?

Study Guide for Inquiry Module 4:

The Fundamental (Primitive) Constitutions of the Order

The purpose of the Inquiry phase of formation is to provide individuals an opportunity to begin discerning a vocation to the lay Dominican life. Essential to this process is a fundamental understanding the Primitive Constitutions of the Order and how they influenced the future development of the lay Dominican vocation.

PRAYER/ CONTEMPLATION

Ask God to enlighten you about study habits and areas of personal interest that might support your spiritual journey. As you read the Fundamental Constitution, consider what part(s) really made an impression on you. Why? Journal your impressions and be prepared to share your thoughts for the next gathering.

STUDY

Read the Fundamental (Primitive) Constitutions. Access is available via the web site www.op.org. Look under Library, Important Documents. The group discussion will focus on the reasons behind the contents including particular items in the Constitutions.

COMMUNITY

Reflect on what aspects of community life were important to the Dominicans of this time. How have those aspects remained or changed within the Order of Preachers?

APOSTOLATE

The apostolate of the Order is preaching to save souls. How was the importance of preaching evident in the Primitive Constitutions?