



# Why Dominican?

## Presentation Notes for Inquiry Module 8: Apostolate/Preaching/Mission

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

1. Articulate that the apostolate/mission of the Order of Preachers is to preach.
2. Understand that cultivating trust in God, humility, freedom of living within God's embrace, mercy and compassion, charity, and perseverance is necessary to predispose one to preach effectively from the heart.
3. Understand the terms "Ministry of the Word", "holy preaching" and "option for the poor".
4. Understand that there are many ways to preach available to the laity.
5. Enumerate current day issues that should have the attention of Dominicans including those relating to peace, justice, and the care of creation.

**Materials:** newspapers to prompt a discussion of current day issues; chalk/chalk board or markers/poster board

**Prayer/Contemplation:** Select one of the following: Luke 5: 31-32 or John 8: 3-11 or 1 Cor. 9: 16 or Matthew 28: 16-21

**Study:**

1. Begin with a general discussion of the Order's apostolate and the interchangeable terms it uses with the term "preaching."
2. Discuss Fr. Ashley's statement that preaching "is a communication of the Gospel Word in a way that not only moves the heart but also illumines the mind with the light of an understanding, growing faith."
3. Encourage the participants to share their insights from reading the chapters in Praying with Dominic as you discuss that an effective preacher needs to cultivate trust in God, humility, freedom of living within God's embrace, mercy and compassion, charity, and perseverance .

4. Encourage participants to respond to the readings in Dominican Laity/2000 by discussing some types of situations in which Dominicans preach world-wide. List these on the board or poster under the titles “places”, “ways”, “issues”.
5. Emphasize there are several populations on which preachers need to focus, based on the priorities of the Order, the Province in which they live, and the current needs in their/our personal local. Ask volunteers to share the newspaper article they brought in to identify themes and issues that need to be addressed by today’s preachers. List these on the board or poster. Be sure to include the term “option for the poor” in this discussion.
6. Use Fr. Ashley’s question “Can the laity Preach?” to set a firm foundation from Canon Law for the authority to preach among the laity. Continue with a discussion of particular places, ways, and issues that lend themselves as opportunities for preaching by the laity.

**Community and Apostolate:** The professed members of the group/chapter should share the various ways in which each fulfills the mandate to preach. An established group/chapter might have one or more group apostolates that they have engaged in presently or in the past. Discuss these opportunities and the possibilities of new members joining or re-activating them.

**Conclusion:** Discerning an individual apostolate or group apostolate is an on-going matter. Use disputatio in voicing opinions as well as discerning the pros and cons of involving oneself or the group/chapter in a particular situation. This topic should be discussed within the group at an appropriate time when there has been sufficient time for private prayer and contemplation.

**Assignment:** Distribute the Study Guide for the next session.