



# Why Dominican?

## Presentation Notes for Inquiry Module 9: The Basic Study of the Rule

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

1. Understand that although beginning to live the Dominican way of life stated in the Rule is undertaken gradually, that the goal is to be able to live this Rule fully for the rest of your life.
2. Understand that the place of the laity in the Church and within the Order of Preachers for a Lay Dominican means active participation in both the Church and the Order.
3. Understand that the practice of Dominican devotions such as daily Scripture reading, attending Mass, praying the rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours as well as frequent reconciliation are matters of the heart rather than requirements.
4. Understand that he/she must develop and/or maintain a hunger for truth and knowledge so that assiduous study becomes a part of daily life.
5. Understand that formation within the Order of Preachers is a lifelong commitment to study and conversion of heart and that there are primary sources to enable that to be accomplished.
6. Understand that preaching the Word of God is mandatory not optional within the Order of Preachers
7. Identify current officers within the Order, the Province, and the group/Chapter
8. Understand how the Dominican Laity fit within the Province and Order

**Materials:** copies of the Presentation Handout on the Fundamental Constitution of the Laity: the Rule

**Prayer/Contemplation:** 1 Cor. 9: 16-17

**Study:**

1. Although a line by line discussion of the Rule is not necessary at the Inquirer Stage, the Rule is so important that a section by section or topical discussion is essential. Everyone should have read through the entire rule before the session. Explain that presentation handout consists of two columns: the topic of commitment to the Rule is listed in the left

column while the right column contains possible observable evidence of this internal commitment.

2. Proceed section by section. Sections are separated by blank lines or Roman numerals.
3. Each person should read the section silently and then a volunteer should express a reaction or pose a question or suggest additional “evidence” that might match one or more of the commitments in that section.
4. It is not necessary for the Inquirer to feel able to commit to living by the Rule at this point so discussion should be aimed at a basic understanding rather than an “I can do this” acceptance. Re-view the expected time of formation for each stage of formation including Inquiry, Candidacy, Temporary Promise/Profession, and renewal of Temporary Promise/Profession and emphasize the gradual acceptance of living the Dominican life.
5. Be sure there is time for Inquirers to ask any questions they had in their journaling if those questions have not been answered in the discussion.

**Community:** A sense of community will be fostered as each person shares his/her thoughts on various aspects of living the Rule. Any Dominicans present should also share particular struggles they have encountered but should do so at the end of each section so that the Inquirers will have had ample opportunity to share and ask questions first.

**Apostolate:** At the end of the section on preaching, it is also appropriate for any Lay Dominican present to share their personal opportunities to preach. Mentioning how various Dominican Saints preached will also allay the fear that some laity may hold of having to be a street corner preacher to fulfill this expectation.

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