

August 8, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

MEMORIAL OF SAINT DOMINIC

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Reflection

Today I chose to reflect on the life of St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order, sometimes referred to as the Order of Preachers. In reading about St. Dominic over the years, I've been intrigued about how his passion for preaching and writing came to be.

He became a priest by joining a Benedictine order, the Canons Regular in Osma, Spain, when he was in his twenties. He quickly gained the reputation as someone with great humility and poverty, as well as for preaching, teaching, and praying the Rosary. He became a fervent defender of the faith against the heresies of his time, most especially from the Albigensians.

In 1216, Dominic went to Rome to petition Pope Honorius III to formally sanction a new Order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), to counter these heresies, especially in the region in Southern France called Languedoc. Pope Honorius III confirmed the Order of Preachers in 1217. Dominic went on to establish monasteries across Europe, and soon foundations of women in the

Order of Preachers became a reality.

While the above is a brief history of St. Dominic, who is he for you and me today? What intrigues you about this saint who gave his life in defending the faith against heretics? When I hear the words “a preaching order,” I immediately think of the spoken and written word. In reality, preaching is much more than this because our very lives preach to others what is most important to us. Our very presence preaches to others; so what are you and I saying and communicating to others about our deep love of God and all of creation?

Preach the Good News!

O God, I yearn for my life to be a homily of your Good News. Make me an instrument of your love, peace, hope, and desire for a gentler and more peaceful world.

May my words flow from a foundation embedded in the gospel values proclaimed so long ago by Jesus. Grant me the wisdom to speak your truth in new and transforming ways.

As Parker Palmer’s book, *Let Your Life Speak*, so beautifully captured, we must know who we are in God before we can be who we are for God.

May our lives speak to the beauty, openness, and desire to “do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).



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For Pondering

- Does anything in particular speak to you about St. Dominic's life? How do you see a reflection of yourself in what he lived, preached, and taught? Reflect on the legacy he has left us through the Order of Preachers.
 - Perhaps a stanza from the prayer above, "Preach the Good News," touches something within you. Explore why this might be and how it can influence you as you go about your day.
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For Prayer

*May we, like Saint Dominic, listen to what you desire of us in our lives.
We pray for the grace and wisdom to let our lives preach the Good News
in the ordinariness of every day.
May all who seek the Lord find hope and beauty
in who they are and who they are becoming.
Amen.*

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