



RESOURCES TO ILLUMINATE DOMINICAN FEAST DAYS



Dominic's Path, painting by Maureen E. Carey

*“Behold, my children, the heritage I leave you:
have charity for one another; guard humility,
make your treasure out of voluntary poverty.”²*

—Last will and testament of St. Dominic

ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMÁN

1170-1221

Feast Day: August 8th

“Cum Deo vel de Deo ~ To speak only with God or about God”

Born in Calreuega, Spain, St. Dominic’s holy journey began well before he preached the Good News throughout France. Starting from a dream his mother, Blessed Jane of Aza had, of a dog with a torch in its mouth, representing her soon-to-be born son carrying the Holy Spirit forward, Dominic’s life brought the light of the Gospel to all those he met. Known as the “joyful friar,” Dominic “conveyed an enthusiasm for the Gospel and the love of Christ”¹ in both word and action. Rooted in a deep life of prayer, his mission and ministry wove together Veritas, the truth of the Gospel, with meeting the needs of the people of his time and for all times. His life has inspired thousands to follow him as Dominican Friars, Sisters, nuns, and associates. To this day thousands more carry out the mission of the Dominicans to preach and teach the Gospel through Dominican Catholic K-12 schools and institutes of higher learning around the world.



Share Your Resources with DELC

Do you have a **fun lesson, project, prayer card, or other resource** related to St. Dominic that you’ve used with your students, faculty, staff, board, or community? [Click here](#) to share your resources on the Platform and join the conversation today.



Resources for Continued Study

- [St. Dominic’s Nine Ways of Prayer](#) by Sr. Chris Broslavick, OP (Racine) (5-10 minute read)
- [Dominic’s Charism](#) by Srs. Ruth Poochigian, OP, and Barbara Dannhausen, OP (Sinsinawa) (Pamphlet and Reflection Questions, 5-10 minute read)
- [St. Dominic: The Story of a Preaching Friar](#) by Fr. Don Goergen, OP (full book)

¹ “Saints of the Dominican Order,” Dominican Sisters of Peace, <https://oppeace.org/saints-of-the-dominican-order/>.

² Zervas, Diane, O.P. 2021. “The Last Will and Testament of St. Dominic” Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. August 8, 2021. <https://www.grdominicans.org/the-last-will-and-testament-of-st-dominic-behold-my-children-the-heritage-i-leave-you/>.

ELEMENTS OF DOMINICAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Gospel Values

Embracing the teaching and preaching mission of Jesus Christ

Signs of the Times

Holding the Tradition in creative partnership with the responsibilities and needs of today's world

Dominican Legacy

Living into the example of St. Dominic de Guzman, St. Catherine of Siena, and all those who followed in their footsteps

Four Pillars of Dominican Life

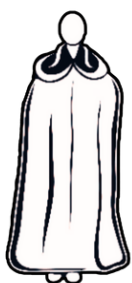
Learning enriched by prayer, study, community and preaching



Gospel Values

"He must increase; I must decrease."³ Borrowing the words from Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, OP, we can honor Christ "by studying the Word of the Lord. Dominic always carried with him the Gospel of Matthew and the letters of Paul...he invites us to look at them, too."⁴ The root of Dominic's mission, and by extension, the root of the mission of Dominican Catholic schools, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether our specific preaching is in the classroom, in the boardroom, in celebrations with alumni, in work with alumni and community members, or in maintaining spaces for learning to take place, we are called to look first to Christ and His words as direction for the mission.

Question for Reflection: How do I turn to scripture as a foundation for my work?



Dominican Legacy

"Cum Deo vel de Deo." It was said that Dominic only spoke to God or of God. This orientation of all his life toward that of the creator and the redeemer brought a focus and clarity to his life. It spoke volumes to those he encountered and continues to provide a model for today's world.

Question for Reflection: How are each task of my day oriented towards God?



Four Pillars of Dominican Life

Study informed his Preaching. Prayer deepened his relationships in Community. Community brought him to further Study. Dominic's life reflected the value of all Four Pillars and of their interconnectedness.

Question for Reflection: How do I draw connections between each Pillar within my vocation?



Signs of the Times

Encountering the Cathars, Dominic saw first hand the deep needs of his time. He set an example to proclaim the truth with compassion, living as a humble, faithful witness in a way the people most needed.

Question for Reflection: How do I stay grounded in my faith while meeting others with compassion and truth?

³John 3:30, New American Bible, Revised Edition.

⁴Op, D. J. G. (2016). *St. Dominic: The story of a preaching friar*. Paulist Press.

FEAST DAY PRAYER SERVICE

This ready-made resource is designed for flexibility. Whether it is used in full or adapted to fit the needs of the community, we invite you to share and utilize this resource as you celebrate the Memorial of St. Dominic.

Mini-Prayer Service for the Memorial of St. Dominic

Opening Prayer

Christ our Teacher,

You sent your servant, St. Dominic, as a holy man for others, preaching and teaching your Gospel through word and deed. Instill in us the same fire for your Gospel that sparked his spirit more than 800 years ago. As we begin another school year, may that same spirit ignite our hearts this day, and may it give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done.

We ask this prayer through the intercession of St. Dominic and through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Today's Psalm has been formatted for the group to be divided in two sides, much as Dominican Sisters and Friars have offered their prayers in the monastic style for many years.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Side 1: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless his name

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Side 2: Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell His glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Side 1: Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise; give to the Lord the glory due His name!

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Side 2: Say among the nations: The Lord is king. He has made the world firm, not to be moved; He governs the peoples with equity.

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Reflection

You may choose to read the reflection below or offer your own reflection on the life of St. Dominic.

"Questions for Reflection" are provided below for individual, partner, or group discussion.

Today's Psalm, "Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations" is a fitting call for the Memorial of St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers. Dominic's life was wholly dedicated to preaching Veritas, truth, of the Gospel. That preaching though, was never offered in a vacuum. St. Dominic's wisdom brought the timeless truth of the Gospel to timely needs of the people of his day and it was delivered with compassion, clarity, and joy.

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From his journey with Bishop Diego, to his night in spirited conversation with the innkeeper, to his many walks with the first friars and sisters, Dominic preached the love of the Gospel as much with his words as he did through his ministry of presence. His legacy reminds us that God's marvelous deeds aren't limited to grand gestures - it is found in every act of teaching, listening, and living. On his memorial, and especially in our roles in Dominican Catholic Education, we are invited to continue that mission in our own communities. May we all live our call as the Order of Preachers and "proclaim the marvelous deeds of the Lord."

- What "marvelous deeds" has the Lord done in your life in the past year?
- What Good News do you want to proclaim in the year ahead?
- What story or moment from St. Dominic's life serves as inspiration for your own work in our school?

Prayers of the Faithful

Today's prayers are inspired by the Four Pillars of Dominican Life and the life of St. Dominic

- ✦ For a deep spirit of prayer in our school community, that, like St. Dominic, we may ground all that we do and say in a deep relationship with our Creator, We pray to the Lord...*Lord hear our prayer.*
- ✦ For a love of truth and a hunger for understanding, that through study we may be better equipped to respond to the needs of our world with wisdom and compassion. We pray to the Lord...*Lord hear our prayer.*
- ✦ For our Dominican communities, our students, faculty, staff, families, and community members, that we may grow our shared mission, supporting one another with joy and love. We pray to the Lord...*Lord hear our prayer*
- ✦ For the courage to preach the Gospel through our words and through our lives, may our work invite others to the Light of Christ, illuminating the marvelous deeds of the Lord. We pray to the Lord...*Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing Prayer

God our Creator,

On this day of celebration, we give thanks for your holy servant Dominic. May Dominic's deep life of prayer move us to root each of our days in relationship with you. May Dominic's tireless pursuit of truth move us to deeper study and understanding of your word. May Dominic's joyful disposition ignite our spirit as we build community here at (insert name of ministry). And may Dominic's preaching in word and deed ignite us to always love you and love our neighbors as ourselves as minister in Catholic education. Inspire us this day to carry on the mission you gave our founder, to preach and teach the Gospel in all that we do.

As we celebrate this feast, we ask this prayer through Christ our Lord,

R. Amen.