

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE SOLEMNNITY  
OF OUR HOLY FATHER, ST. DOMINIC

PRAYERS TO BEGIN EACH DAY

Act of Contrition

My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

13<sup>th</sup> Century Dominican Blessing

May God the Father bless us,

May God the Son heal us,

May God the Holy Spirit enlighten us

and give us eyes to see with,

ears to hear with, and hands to do the

work of God with, feet to walk with,

and a mouth to preach

the word of salvation with,

and the angel of peace to watch over us

and lead us at last by our Lord's gift

to the Kingdom.

Amen.

## PRAYER TO CONCLUDE EACH DAY

O wonderful hope that you had given  
at the hour of your death when you  
promised to be of more help to us after your death!

Father, keep your word and aid us by your prayers.  
Your sanctity had shone through  
many signs in the bodies of the afflicted,  
bring to us the help of Christ and heal  
our souls in their illness and repining.

Father, keep your word and aid us by your prayers

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Father, keep your word and aid us by your prayers.

Pray for us Blessed Father Dominic.

That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Lord, let the holiness and teachings of St. Dominic come to the aid of your Church.  
May he help us now with his prayers as he once inspired people by his preaching. We ask this  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST DAY  
July 29, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The One who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him.” Because he spoke in this way, many came to believe in him. Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:28 - 32)

Reflection

We read in *Libellus* #15: “in reaching Toulouse, Dominic discovered that many of its inhabitants had become heretics, quite a considerable time before his arrival. Dominic was stirred to great compassion at the thought of so many souls wretchedly led astray. They took lodging in the city and the sub-prior (Dominic himself) spent the entire night assailing their heretical innkeeper with the fire and urgency of all the arguments and discussion which he heaped up in his efforts to win him over. The heretic was unable to resist the wisdom and the spirit of Dominic’s words, and through the intervention of God, Dominic led the innkeeper back to the faith.”

Quick to vibrate in sympathy with every affliction, Dominic plumbed the depths of the misery of this man who had strayed so far from the truth. Within his soul, he has known from the intimate experience that evangelical truth is the gift of love, to show that this truth may be studied out of love, contemplated out of love, preached out of love. If we seek to know what aspiration drove him to go on walking and preaching until his strength was exhausted, it is perhaps simply this: to demonstrate, in evangelical humility, that the word of God sets man free and that the truth of Jesus Christ is indeed salvation.

Prayer

O glorious St. Dominic who has been a staunch defender and untiring preacher of the truth, pray for us that we may penetrate ever more deeply the truth of ourselves, the truth of our being, of who we are and what we are meant to be. May truth-seeking lead us to conversion personally and socially and to commitment geared towards service to a neighbor in need. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

SECOND DAY  
July 30, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest."

(Matthew 9:35-38)

Reflection

Dominic possessed the compassionate heart of Jesus. From *Libellus* No. 10 we read: "While Dominic was pursuing his studies in Palencia, a great famine spread through almost the whole Spain. He was moved by the distress of the poor. His heart on fire with compassion, he resolved by means of one single action to obey our Lord's counsels and at the same time do everything he could to relieve the misery of the poor who were dying on every side. He therefore, sold all his possessions, even his books which were truly indispensable and he established an almonry where he could distribute everything among the poor. This example of goodness so stirred up the hearts of his fellow-students and masters in theology that they suddenly realized that their own neglect has been more like avarice when compared with this young man's generosity, and from that moment they began to give alms with great liberality."

The distress of the poor moved Dominic deeply. This was something much more than mere emotion and quite different, too. Compassion stirred deep within his soul and impelled him out of himself towards the poor. Dominic was spurred to action.

In the face of poverty and destitution of the great mass of our people, am I moved to compassion? Is my compassion simply a matter of sentiments? Can I feel within me the suffering of the poor? Am I moved to do something for them?

Prayer

O holy Father, St. Dominic, you had taken Jesus' option for the poor your own choice. Obtain for us the grace to know the pains of this world, allow it to touch us and to help us become not just a witness to it but to be a defender of the poor and those who suffer, the voiceless and the marginalized people. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

THIRD DAY  
July 31, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

In the days when Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son, though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, declared by God high priest according to the order Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:7-10)

Reflection

An excerpt from the *Libellus* shows us a good picture of Dominic's prayer life. Wherever he went he showed himself in word and in deed to be a man of the Gospel. During the day no one was more community-minded or pleasant toward his brothers and associates. During the night no one was more persistent in every kind of vigil and supplication. He seldom spoke unless it was with God, that is in prayer, or about God; and in this matter he instructed his brothers (Acts of the Process of Canonization, Bologna report, p. 37; fr. Stephen of Spain).

As Christians we have been entrusted with God's Word for others. However, Meister Eckhart, a Dominican mystic, reminds us that "the only word that anyone of us can preach is the Word that has been born within us, the Word that we have heard and received in the depths of our being." The only word that we can preach is therefore the Word that has found a home within us because we have welcomed it, pondered it and contemplated it in the silence of our hearts. This realization encourages us to attend to the contemplative dimension of our lives as preachers: the dimension that roots us in the deep places of God and of ourselves in God and opens us to receive God's Word. The Word that Dominic, prophetic preacher, proclaimed was the Word he received during his long nights of prayer.

How is my prayer life? Is my apostolic life an outflow of my prayer life? Is the Word I proclaim born out of my reflection and prayer?

Prayer

O Blessed St. Dominic, whose apostolic zeal flowed from a life grounded in prayer and contemplation, obtain for us the grace to allow God's Word to take root in us that we may preach courageously in season and out of season. Pray for us that in spite of the overwhelming busyness and clutteredness of our lives, we may discover our own rhythm of prayer and find a home in God's Word. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

FOURTH DAY  
August 1, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus, “as you go, make this proclamation: The Kingdom is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and drive out demons. Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts, no sacks for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves: so be shrewd as serpents and as simple as doves. Do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

(Matthew 10:5, 7-10,16,19-20)

Reflection

Taking Jesus as he is presented in the Gospels as model, we find that an evangelical lifestyle has three essential dimensions: (1) life of simplicity, (2) of compassion, and (3) of availability. Let us reflect on these three dimensions:

(1) When we speak about a life of simplicity, we have in mind a life uncluttered by superfluous trapping of any kind. When Dominic decided to stay in France and devote his life to preaching the Gospel, he realized very quickly that the reason, the Cistercian abbots who have been working in the area for some time had made no headway was because of their affluent way of living. Jordan of Saxony tells us that these abbots had an “enormous supply of provisions, horses and clothing.” This was a source of scandal to the local people who saw in contrast how simply the Albigensian heretics lived. One of Dominic’s first actions, therefore, was to rid himself of his horses and other unnecessary possessions so that he could live poorly. From that time on, evangelical poverty has been intimately connected with evangelical preaching in the Dominican understanding of mission. Our poverty is for the sake of preaching and is never an end in itself. We all know how baggage can weigh us down and impede us from moving from place to place. Lack of unnecessary baggage must therefore be a characteristic of a preacher. St. Thomas has described the life of a preacher as life in which everything is abandoned to go through the whole world announcing and preaching the Gospel.

(2) Second characteristic of Jesus’ life praxis which we are asked to incorporate into our own lives as preachers of the Gospel is compassion for all who suffer. Dominic had that compassion. We are told that he was always joyful, his face always happy and radiant, except when he encountered any kind of suffering. Then his face would suddenly become sad and his tears would flow. Indeed, many biographers single out compassion as the quality which most characterized Dominic. Because of this, his and our tasks are often described in terms of preaching a Gospel of mercy.

(3) Thirdly, an evangelical way of living, in imitation of Jesus, is characterized by an attitude of availability towards others. It is making oneself available to answer whatever calls of need one hears, as soon as they are heard and wherever they are heard.

Prayer

O glorious St. Dominic, who inspired us by a life of simplicity, compassion and availability, pray that we may have the courage to let go of things that possess us and tie us down. May we become free to be Jesus’ disciples in our own vocation. May this freedom lead us to seek out those whose cries we

hear and be willing to walk with them in compassion and in solidarity. Through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

FIFTH DAY  
August 2, 2022  
(Optional memorial of Bl. Jane of Aza, mother of St. Dominic)

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone and many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.  
(Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47)

Reflection

Dominic combined Apostolic Mission and Apostolic Communion in his Order. He realized neither could have meaning nor survive without the other. These two elements are present in the Gospel and Acts, for in St. Mark, one finds the text about Jesus sending the apostles out two by two to proclaim the Kingdom, while in Acts, a description of the community having all in common and giving testimony to the Resurrection, is found. The Oakland General Chapter 1989 reaffirmed the values of community life. We are called to form one united fraternity in Christ, Christ sharing the same attitudes of mind and heart, the same hopes and plans and the same mission. We are not a community primarily because we live together and do things in common, however important community structures may be. We are a community of prayer gathered around the table of the Word of God and the table of the Eucharist. Breaking the Bread of God's Word and the Bread of the Eucharist together brings us to have one mind and one heart in Christ and impels us to be actively involved in the life-situation of our people.

Do I believe that a strong community life is the foundation of an effective prayer life and apostolate? Am I capable of building a community? How can I help build my present community? In what ways am I responsible in destroying my community?

Prayer

O Blessed St. Dominic who saw the need to form a community of disciples of Jesus to effectively respond to the needs of the Church, assist us in our desire and endeavor to build our community, our family, our neighborhood, our parish. Lead us to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we may learn from the Trinitarian community to be of one mind and one heart, to be generous with our gifts, to be loving and forgiving, to be patient and persevering. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

SIXTH DAY  
August 3, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.  
(John 1:1-5,10-14)

Reflection

Dominic was a man of the Gospel in word and in deed. He had only one passion: to know and to experience the Word of God in truth and from this experience to announce the compassion of God to men and women. The Word of God who became man in the womb of Mary now takes flesh in us, a Word contemplated, celebrated in joy, studied attentively, lived in community and announced as Good News.

Dominic was the heart of the Church in the service of the world. He was sensitive to the Word spoken in the heart of every man and woman, especially those who were enclosed in misery and need. We share in that charism and his prophetic vision proclaiming the Word that the Lord puts into our hearts.

Prayer

O glorious St. Dominic whose center of life was God's Word and whose apostolic fervor grew out of the Word encountered in silence and in the cries of those in need, help us to focus our lives in Jesus who is the Word made flesh for our redemption. In a world where there is a weakening of our sense of the importance of words, let us be a sign where words we speak can offer life and build community. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...)

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

SEVENTH DAY  
August 4, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

Then his mother and brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told: "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply: "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and act on it."  
(Luke 8:19-21)

Reflection

Jesus means to say that Mary is closer to him and more his mother for having believed and fulfilled the Word of God than having borne him physically. In the Kingdom of God, it is a matter of love expressed in life through work and service, a love that has its sources and strength in God, in Jesus Christ. It is a matter of a love that gives life and offers one's personal life for the beloved.

Dominic's devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary flowed from his devotion to the Word of God, Jesus. Dominic took Mary not only as a mother but also as a model of discipleship: one who heard the Word of God and acted on it. In Mary's womb, the Word of God was conceived and then incarnated to give life to the world... to effect salvation and liberation. This is Dominic's ideal: to incarnate Jesus in the world only after conceiving the Word in one's mind and one's heart by welcoming it, pondering and studying it, celebrating it in joy and living and announcing it as Good News in words and deeds and lives.

We are told that St. Dominic once had a vision of heaven, and saw there, before the throne of God, members of the various religious Orders. But he looked in vain for the sight of a Dominican. In great distress he fell at Mary's feet and asked her what had gone wrong. In reply she lifted her great cloak and there was the Dominican Family sheltered beneath it. This might be taken as a symbol of "gazing at God, but under the shelter of Mary's cloak."

St. Pope Paul VI in his *Marialis Cultus* #43 said "Among these people special mention should be made of the sons of Saint Dominic, by Tradition the guardians and promoters of this very salutary practice, of praying the Holy Rosary."

Prayer

O Blessed Dominic, devoted to Jesus and Mary, help us so that we may not ignore the Word of God or reduce it to pure theory. Teach us to listen and to fulfil the Word with love in work and service worthy of Jesus and Mary. May our words and deeds and lives once more incarnate Jesus and hence, become Good News to people. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

EIGHTH DAY  
August 5, 2022

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery and corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now, not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. (Romans 3:19-24)

Reflection

The Albigensian heresy prevailed during the time of Dominic. This heresy denied the goodness of matter and creation and rejected the mystery of the Incarnation, which is God becoming man, God becoming one with his creatures. Those who upheld this heresy believed that matter is evil while the spirit is good.

Dominic rejected this heresy. In his teaching and preaching, he proclaimed the goodness of creation, its sacredness. He saw in the Incarnation the meeting of God and the world, the divine and the creature, matter and spirit. He saw oneness and relationship of human beings with God, with his fellowmen and with all creation. He realized, like St. Paul that we are a piece with all creation.

How do we look at creation? Do we take care of it? Are we aware that in destroying nature, we destroy ourselves in the process? What positive steps do we take in the face of the exploitation and destruction of the earth?

Prayer

O Blessed Dominic, who saw the reflection of God's goodness in creation, help us to be aware of God's loving presence in this world. Pray for us that we may become worthy stewards of this earth and bring us to believe in God's healing and providential care in a world where production and industrialization seem to disrupt the beauty of this world. Help us to open our minds and our hearts to the Holy Spirit that we may learn to nurture than destroy our planet. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

NINTH DAY  
August 6, 2022  
(Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord)

Prayers to Begin Each Day

Reading

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you also that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15: 9-11)

Reflection

Jesus reveals to us God's love so that his joy may become our and that our joy may become complete. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing - sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death- can take that love away.

Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world. Jesus says it loudly and clearly: "In the world you will have troubles, but rejoice, I have overcome the world."

Bl. Jordan of Saxony succeeded Dominic as Master of the Order. He wrote these charming words of his friend "Although I was not one of the first brethren, I enjoyed his companionship and frequently saw and intimately knew the blessed Dominic, both outside and within the Order. I went to him for confession and on his advice accepted the Office of Deacon. Four years after he established the Order, I received the habit." Jordan described Dominic: "His mind always retained its usual calm unless he was stirred by compassion and mercy. And because a joyful heart begets a cheerful face, he revealed the peaceful harmony in his soul by his cordial manner and his pleasant countenance. This cheerfulness is what enabled him to win everyone's affection for as soon as they looked upon him, they were captivated." William Peyre, a Cistercian abbot, testified that Dominic bore abuses and curses and insults most patiently and with as much joy as one would have, receiving a gift or a great service.

Prayer

O Joyful Friar, St. Dominic, tolerant Master, grace-filled Preacher, Gospel Man of Prayer, pray that your sons and daughters may be faithful to your heritage of common life, common prayer, study of truth and service. Pray for all of us that we may not lose heart in the face of all difficulties and anguishes but rather, at all times we may praise, bless and preach that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He has overcome the world.

Moment of silence... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the...

Prayer to Conclude Each Day

**In addition to the prayers above, you are also encouraged to prayer 1 set of mysteries of the Rosary each day of the Novena or the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (also called the Litany of Loreto)**

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

The Annunciation  
The Visitation  
The Nativity of Jesus  
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple  
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

The Baptism of Jesus  
The Wedding at Cana  
The Preaching of the Kingdom  
The Transfiguration  
The Institution of the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

The Agony in the Garden  
The Scourging at the Pillar  
The Crowning of Thorns  
The Carrying of the Cross  
The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

The Resurrection  
The Ascension  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost  
The Assumption of Mary  
Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven & Earth

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord, have mercy.      Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.    Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy.      Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.        Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,                      have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,        have mercy on us.  
God the Holy Spirit,                              have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, one God,                         have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,    pray for us.  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of virgins,  
Mother of Christ,

Mother of the Church,  
Mother of Mercy,  
Mother of divine grace,  
Mother of Hope,  
Mother most pure,  
Mother most chaste,  
Mother inviolate,  
Mother undefiled,  
Mother most amiable,  
Mother admirable,  
Mother of good counsel,  
Mother of our Creator,  
Mother of our Saviour,  
Virgin most prudent,  
Virgin most venerable,  
Virgin most renowned,  
Virgin most powerful,  
Virgin most merciful,  
Virgin most faithful,  
Mirror of justice,  
Seat of wisdom,  
Cause of our joy,  
Spiritual vessel,  
Vessel of honour,  
Singular vessel of devotion,  
Mystical rose,  
Tower of David,  
Tower of ivory,  
House of gold,  
Ark of the covenant,  
Gate of heaven,  
Morning star,  
Health of the sick,  
Refuge of sinners,  
Solace of Migrants,  
Comfort of the afflicted,  
Help of Christians,  
Queen of Angels,  
Queen of Patriarchs,  
Queen of Prophets,  
Queen of Apostles,  
Queen of Martyrs,  
Queen of Confessors,  
Queen of Virgins,  
Queen of all Saints,  
Queen conceived without original sin,  
Queen assumed into heaven,  
Queen of the most holy Rosary,

Queen of families,  
Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

spare us, O Lord.  
graciously hear us, O Lord.  
have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of  
Christ.

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee,

O Lord God,

that we, your servants,

may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body;

and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,

may be delivered from present sorrow,

and obtain eternal joy.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[https://www.vatican.va/special/rosary/documents/litanie-lauretane\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/special/rosary/documents/litanie-lauretane_en.html)