



AUGUST

Praying in the Spirit and Inspiration of St. Dominic deGuzman (1170-1221) Feast Day: August 8

Gathering and Centering:

Leader 1: Called and empowered in God's Holy Spirit we pause from the

busyness of this day to focus our efforts and attune ourselves to the work of this committee. We pray in the spirit and inspiration of St. Dominic.

Dominican Saint: St. Dominic de Guzman

Leader 2: Dominic was born into a family of privilege and educated in Spain where he attended university for ten years, studying the arts and theology. Education and learning, kindness and charity, were centerpieces of his life. While Dominic journeyed from place to place he prayed and preached speaking always to or of God.

Dominic is described as a joyful friar, founder of an Order of Preachers, who taught his followers to praise, to bless, to preach. Ministry of the Word following prayer and study was a value he imparted by his example. He taught his friars the art of reaching the hearts of others by animating them with a love of humankind. Once, after delivering a stirring sermon, he was asked in what book he had studied it. "In none," he answered, "but that of love."

Dominic founded a community of nuns in Prouille, France in 1206. These nine women who were converted from the false teachings of the Albigensian heresy supported the work of the preaching friars by their life of contemplative prayer.

Prayer:

Leader 1: Quote from Saint Dominic

*"Arm yourself with prayer rather than a sword;
wear humility rather than fine clothes."*

Side 1: St. Dominic, Gospel man of Prayer
steeped in the Word of God,

Side 2: St. Dominic, Preacher of Truth and Justice,
rooted in service,

Side 1: St. Dominic, Advocate of Women, blessed by a
fondness to Mary, Mother of God

Side 2: St. Dominic, Joyful Life's Traveler,
sent on mission.

**All: May the life Dominic lived so faithfully,
and the legacy that lives so vibrantly in
time, strengthen us to live true to our call.
We ask this, Holy God, in the name of
Jesus, in unity with the Spirit. Amen.**

Scripture: Ephesians 3:7-9

Reader: I became a minister of the Gospel by the gift of the grace of God so powerfully at work in me. To me, the least of the holy ones, was given the grace to preach the Good News of the inexhaustible riches of Christ, and to illumine for all the inner design of the mystery eternally hidden in God, creator of all things. The Word of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

Reflection and Sharing:

What is the grace powerfully at work in you?

In what way/s do you use and/or share that grace?

Prayer:

Leader 1: God of all truth, as you blessed Saint Dominic and his followers with an ardent commitment to truth through a life of prayer, study, common life, and the preaching ministry, guide our work in responding to the gift of service in your name, through Christ, in union with your Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

Blessing: Dominican Prayer:

Leader 2: We pray: May God the Creator bless us. May Jesus heal us. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us and give us eyes to see, hands to do the work of God, feet to walk, and a mouth to preach the Word. **All: Amen.**

