

LAY DOMINICANS
ST. ALBERT
THE GREAT
CENTRAL PROVINCE

VATICAN II
CONSTITUTIONS

- LITURGY
- THE CHURCH
- REVELATION
- THE CHURCH IN
THE MODERN
WORLD

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Spirituality?

Such a popular word—*Spirituality*—for so many things, from St. John of the Cross to those who say, “I am spiritual but not religious.”

Let us zero into the deepest meaning: spirituality seeks union with the Divine. Echoing St. Paul—to pray always—it is living a life united to God.

As mystics say about the Eucharist—we are what we eat, we become God.

To make a Thomistic/
Aristotelian distinction

(*Pars philosophiae est distinguere.*), we are not God substantially but we can become God essentially. The essence of God is love, so when we are love, we are God. As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that we are united to God by knowing and loving Him.

“Yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” (Gal. 2: 20)



The more my will is God's will, the more I am united to God.

With the troubles and cares which are part of living now in the world, we are often distracted from our union. How can we overcome this?

The 1st step is *contemplation*. We are, as Dominicans, an active contemplative Order. Through our involvement in contemplation we will implement union with the Divine which will flow throughout our day eventually.

Every Lay Dominican should be enjoying contemplative prayer!

Dominican Mysticism

The above is also called Rhineland Mysticism or German Mysticism. It was a part of a late medieval Christian movement.

It focused on the laity and on preaching; asceticism was downplayed.

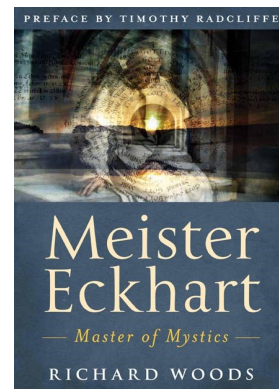
3 Dominicans were and are today very influential:

I. Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-c. 1327) was a German

theologian, philosopher, mystic and preacher. He has been resurrected today and is very popular.

II. Johannes Tauler (c. 1300-1361) was a German mystic, theologian and preacher. He promoted neo-platonism in Dominican spirituality.

III. Bl. Henry Suso (1295-1361) was a German



spiritual writer and mystic.

These 3 stand out (although there are more) and bear study. They will deepen your spiritual life as you move toward *Divine Union*.

Saint of the Month for October



Bl. Terence Albert O'Brien (1600-Oct. 31, 1651) was born in Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland. He joined the Dominicans and studied at Toledo and Limerick.

He was consecrated Bishop of Emly, Ireland. During the Irish Confederate Wars he sided with Confederate Ireland, like most Irish Catholics.

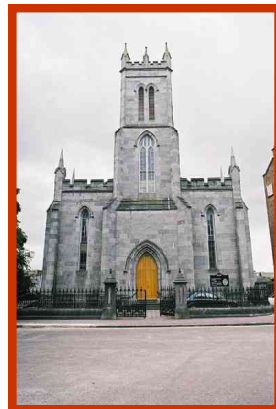
Terence supported the Confederate soldiers throughout the conflict

and treated their wounded.

In 1651 Limerick was besieged and O'Brien urged a resistance that infuriated the opposition. Following surrender he was denied protection and was brought before a court martial and ordered for execution. He died a martyr following his execution in Limerick.

On Sept. 27, 1992 O'Brien and 16 other Irish Catholic Martyrs were beatified by

Pope John Paul II.



St. Michael's
Limerick

*"Blessed are the
clean of heart, for
they will see God."*

Matthew 5: 8

November Saints

Nov. 1—ALL SAINTS

Nov. 3—St. Martin de Porres +1639

Nov. 5—Bl. Simon Ballachi +1319

Nov. 6—Ss. Francis de Capillas +1648; Alphonas Navarrete +1617 & Companions

Nov. 8—All Dominican Saints

Nov. 14—Bl. John Licio +1511

Bl. Lucy of Narnia +1544

Nov. 15—**ST. ALBERT** the

GREAT +1280

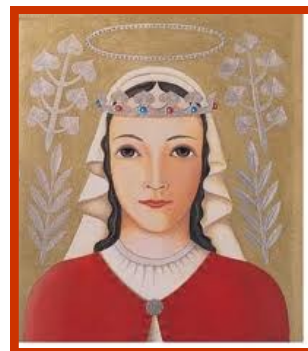
Nov. 19—Bl. John Benfatti +1332

Nov. 24—St. Catherine of Alexandria +310 (co-patroness of the Order)

St. Ignatius Delgado +1838 and many Martyrs in Vietnam

Nov. 25—Bl. Margaret of Savoy +1464

Nov. 28—St. Zedislava Berkiana +1252 LD



St. Zedislava Berkiana

Meister Eckhart

"At one with her creator, the soul has lost her name, for she herself does not exist: God has absorbed her into Him, just as the sunlight swallows up the dawn till it is gone..."

"The soul is a creature receptive to everything named, but the nameless

she cannot receive until she is gotten so deep into God that she is nameless herself. And then none can tell if it is she that has gotten God or God has gotten her..."

"I am as sure as I live that nothing is so near to me as God..."

"God is nearer to me than I am to myself."



*"Nothing is
so near to
me as God."*



Provincial Happenings

We continue to ask for your prayers for our recent Provincial Lay Dominican Promoters: **Fr. Matt Walsh OP** and **Fr. Jim Motl OP**.



The Central Province Lay Dominicans will hold their Provincial Council at the Chicago Cenacle from 10/3—10/6. We do need your prayers for a fruitful meeting as there all plans afoot for a very productive meeting. All we need now is some nice weather in the "Windy City."

Once again we strongly advise all Delegates to become familiar with 3 documents:

1. Lay Dominican Rule
2. Provincial Council Bylaws
3. A Handbook for Lay Dominican Leadership

These 3 documents are available on the 'Members Info' page on our Provincial website (laydominicancentral.org)

There is also a great amount of new info on this page relevant to the DLIPC, ICLDF, ARCHIVING etc. Read the info and

info and learn about the happenings in the Lay Dominican world.

Check out our website: **(laydominicancentral.org)** for new info on 'News', 'Promoters', 'Jubilee' and brand new—**Vocations** etc.



Lay Dominican Rule

How does having a *Rule* help a Lay Dominican in his/her spiritual life. Is it a burden—something we would be better without? Is it strictly a laundry-list of obligations?

Or does it somehow set us free? A paradox—under a rule and yet free!

When you really study the Lay Dominican Rule (especially the 1st half) you realize there is nothing there you would not

want to do.

Read it over and realize the truth of this. It sets forth the heart of Dominican spirituality—*Prayer, Study, Community, Mission*.

These 4 Pillars present a very well-rounded and complete spiritual life.

Life is so much easier when we do not have to reinvent the wheel. Every serious pil-



grim is advised to have a *Rule* or *Guide* to follow so that the pilgrim can concentrate on more important things—like pursuing union with the Divine. The Rule is a

map which makes the journey so much easier. It provides the tools; we use them.

Read the Rule again.

Provincial Formation

"Provincial Formation" for what? Good question!

We are being formed to become adults in our Faith. Adults act maturely and not immaturely. They rely on their reason and autonomy.

This was well-stated by Immanuel Kant in an essay written nearly 230 years ago entitled: "*Answering the Question: What is Enlightenment?*"

The lack of enlightenment is due to

the inability of people to think for themselves due not to lack of intellect but to lack of courage to use their reason, intellect and wisdom. He said the motto of enlightenment is "*Sapere aude!*" (*Dare to be wise.*)

Following the teachings of St. Dominic a Dominican must first study, pray and then act. As another group says: "*Be prepared!*"

The Lay Dominican must act in an adult manner which he/she will be

qualified to do after completing the Provincial Formation Program. He/she will know what the Church teaches about itself, about itself in the modern world, about Divine Revelation, about Liturgy, about the Dominican Order, etc.

The adult Lay Dominican will not feel the need to run to a Friar or Sister for the answer but will have it themselves. They have become "*grown-ups.*"



Immanuel Kant



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**Send us your news on the happenings in your Chapter/Group and we will be pleased to post them in ~~contemplata~~ and on our Provincial website:
laydominicancentral.org**

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.COFFEE ANYONE ???

Tom and his wife, Marian, were in the habit of arguing each morning about who should brew the coffee.

Marian said, "Tom, you should do it because you get up first and we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

Tom replied, "You should do it because you are in charge of cooking and I can just wait for my coffee."

"No, you should do it," Marian said, "because it is

in the Bible that the man should make the coffee."

"I can't believe that; show me," Tom asked.

So Marian got the Bible, turned to the New Testament and showed Tom that at the top of several pages it indeed says:

"HEBREWS."



Who am I?

Last month's Saint was Fr. Jim Motl OP.

I am a man living my Dominican vocation as a Friar in Madison, WI.

Here I am in the Midwest but, strange enough, I have spent much of my ordained life as a Dominican Friar working in Africa. I loved my work in Africa and with the African people. Truly Dominicans are all over the world.

I did work with the Lay Dominicans as their Central Provincial Promoter. Now I am still preaching through my acceptance of death as I await union with Jesus and Dominic.

WHO AM I?

Contemplari...

Many mistakenly think that the act of Contemplation is a short term prayer. This is true only partially. Since spirituality's goal is union with the Divine, Contemplation seeks this union in silent prayer to set the terms for our entire life.

In other words we are to be in union with God 24/7. Being human and busy in the world, we are prone to forget this union.

However, as St. Paul says we are to pray always. This means we are to be in union with God at all times. So our time of Contemplation should carry over and be reflected in our lives throughout the day.

Not so easy, you say. But all things are possible with perseverance.



Jesus often withdrew to contemplate. Yet His union never abated but carried throughout His day.

The same was true with St. Dominic who either prayed or spoke of God. He stayed in the presence of God, no matter what he was doing.

Let us, first, contemplate and then give to others what we contemplate, as Dominicans.