

## 7 CATHOLIC VIRTUES

- ◆ CHASTITY
- ◆ TEMPERANCE
- ◆ CHARITY
- ◆ DILIGENCE
- ◆ PATIENCE
- ◆ KINDNESS
- ◆ HUMILITY

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## Clericalism?



**Clericalism**—What is it? Is it wrong? - It is a danger in our Church, in our spiritual life.

It is a newly-emphasized problem but not a new problem. It has been with us for many centuries.

It is the belief that the clerical state is the standard and norm for Church members. The Laity look to the clerics (and by extension nuns and sisters) as the complete example for the Laity. It is felt that we, the Laity, should look and act like the clerics.



Yet the Church does not teach this (*Lumen Gentium, Apostolicam Actuositatem*). We are all the 'People of God' and are all called to lives of sanctity. We are not anti-clerical but genuinely complementary and mutually supportive.

In 2004 in "100% Dominican; 100% Laity" Fr. Jerry Stookey OP, our new Promoter, wrote: "We continue to struggle with the centuries of clericalism that divides our Catholic community between those who are ordained and those who are not, between religious and secular...Vatican II restores the sense of the Church as the People of God...with different gifts."

Pope Francis wrote recently that the reform that's needed is "neither to clericalize nor asked to be clericalized. The layperson is a layperson. He has to live as a layperson..to be a leaven of the love of God in society itself...to proclaim the faith, not from a pulpit but from his everyday life."



The question we must ask and answer is: "What is genuine Lay spirituality?" We are Laity; we must act and look Lay. It is our vocation to be Catholic Dominican Laity. To this the Holy Spirit is calling us. Let us not be imitative but live our role complementarily and supportively.

## 3 Essentials...

The significance of the number 3 for us begins with the Trinity. St. Dominic carried 3 books with him (Gospel of Matthew, writings of Paul, Cassian's Conferences). The earliest Dominicans were allowed to have 3 books.

Our Formation Training advocates 3 must-have books for every Dominican's library (Bible, Vatican II Documents, Catechism).

Now we promote 3 special documents with which every Lay Dominican should be familiar. This is especially true for every elected Provincial Council Delegate. Before you attend the Provincial Council read and study these3:

- 1) Lay Dominican Rule
- 2) Provincial Council Bylaws
- 3) A Handbook for Lay Do-



### minican Leadership

All 3 of these are available for download from our Provincial website: ([laydominicancentral.org](http://laydominicancentral.org)) on the 'Members' page

Study is one of our Pillars and it would not be right to come to the Provincial Council without having read and studied these 3 documents!

# Saint of the Month for September



For this month let us return to the “Age of Faith” as the medieval times were known. This is a time when legends and miracles abounded. It is a time before the “Age of Science.” Walk in the footsteps of the peasants and faithful of a bygone era and suspend judgement for a delightful moment.

Bl. Catherine of Racconigi OP, (Italian: Caterina Mattei), is an example of

late medieval times. She was born into a poor family in Piedmont, Italy in 1487, often in conflict.

At the age of 5 she began to have visions of Jesus, Mary, Catherine of Siena and Peter Martyr. Jesus always appeared to her as the same age. Mary told Catherine that Jesus wanted her as His bride and gifted her with a wedding ring and the stigmata only she could see.

Many miracles happened

as a result of her visions. A broken dish was made whole again. Money and food would be provided when needed. “Jesus, my hope!” she would often exclaim.

Eventually she became a Lay Dominican.

Her neighbors were terrified at the sounds and lights which came from her home during her mystical experiences. Even the Friars ostracized her but she persevered.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

Matthew 5: 3

## October Saints

Oct 3—Bl. Dominic Spadafora +1521

Oct 4—OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS OF ASSISI +1226

Oct 5—Bl. Raymond of Capua +1399

Oct 6—Bl. Bartolo Longo +1926

Oct 7—Our Lady of the Rosary

Oct 8—Bl. Ambrose Sansedoni +1287

Bl. Matthew Careri +1470

Oct 9—St. Louis Bertrand +1581

Oct 11—Bl. James of Ulm +1491

Oct 13—Bl. Madeline Panattieri +1503

Oct 14—Bl. Marie Poussepin +1744

Oct 19—Bl. Agnes of Langeac +1634

Oct 21—Bl. Peter of Citta di Castello +1445

Oct 25—Bl. Peter Geremia +1452

Oct. 26—Bl. Damian of Finale Borgo +1484



Oct 27—Bl. Bartholomew of Vicenza +1270

Oct 28—Ss. Simon and Jude

Oct 30—Bl. Benvenuta Boriani +1292

Bl. Terence O’Brien +1651

Bl. Peter Higgins +1643

## Henry Suso OP

Bl. Henry Suso OP wrote *A Little Book of Eternal Wisdom* (a conversation with God).

“Eternal Wisdom.— Lo! I am a good so pure, that he who in his day only gets one drop of Me regards all the pleasures and delights of this world as nothing but bitterness;

all its possessions and honors as worthless, and only fit to be cast away; My beloved ones are encompassed by My love, and are absorbed into the One Thing alone without imaged love and without spoken words, and are taken and infused into that good out of which

they flowed. My love can also relieve regenerate hearts from the heavy load of sin, and can give a free, pure, and gentle heart, and create a clean conscience.”

Is this not *Contemplation*?



“I am a good so pure...”

# Provincial Happenings

**The Blessed Sacrament Chapter**, Farmington Hills, MI, witnessed on Aug. 11, 2013 the Final Promises of **Dr. David McDonald Ph.D, OP** and the Reception of **Maria Dyer OP** during Evening Prayer with the Contemplative Nuns in the Monastery Chapel. It was a glorious occasion!



The Friars held their Chapter recently in Trogir, Croatia. **Fr. Bruno Cadore OP**, Master of the Order, emphasized: the Word of God; fraternal community; love of the world.

**Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP**, former Master, answered the question: “Why we believe in the future?”

- I in 6 brothers is in formation;
- we are all young in heart;
- Preaching is extended to the internet.

Indeed, the future is bright for the Order with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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. All we need now is some nice weather in the ‘Windy City.’

Check out our website: ([laydominicancentral.org](http://laydominicancentral.org)) for new info on ‘News’, ‘Promoters’, ‘Jubilee’ and brand new—‘Vocations’ etc.



## Lay Dominican Rule

We are members of the Order of Preachers. This means that each one of us is a “Preacher.” Our Rule #12 states: “Every Dominican must be prepared to preach the Word of God. Through this preaching, Christians, baptized and strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, exercise their prophetic office. In our present world, preaching of the Word of God must encompass in a special way

the dignity of the human person, as well as to defend the sacredness of life and family. The Dominican vocation also includes the promotion of Christian unity and dialogue with both non-Christians and non-believers.”

Among other references our Guidelines refer us to the Vatican II Document on the Laity (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*).

This Document begins the Candidacy I Formation Training because it is so important and should be studied by every Lay Dominican. It touches on the use of words which are necessary at times when good example is not enough. As St. Francis said, “Use words when necessary.”



Sometimes they are necessary. We must prepare ourselves by prayer and study for those times and step up to the plate.

## Provincial Formation

“By your friends you will be known.” You can tell a great deal about a person by his/her friends. We watch the friends of our children because we know that peer influence often sadly outweighs home influence.

On the other hand good friends are a joy. Together we can accomplish much. Synergy brings greater results than individual efforts. This is

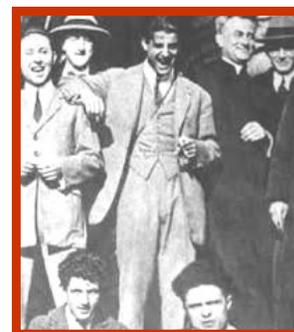
the reason why it is so important for the Lay Dominican to meet in Chapters. Community is one of our 4 Pillars.

Unit 6 of Candidacy I concerns “Dominican Saints.” Imagine— we are part of 800 years of men and women who have achieved great sanctity as Dominicans: Friars, Nuns, Sisters and Laity.

We were founded by an *alter Christus*, **St. Dominic**, an itinerant

preacher. He in turn was followed by **St. Albert the Great**, **St. Thomas Aquinas**, **St. Catherine of Siena** up to **Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati**. What a magnificent group of friends!

In fact, look about and I am sure you will see other Lay Dominican saints among your Chapter members. People who really try to live the Dominican way of life.





**LAY DOMINICANS  
ST. ALBERT  
THE GREAT  
CENTRAL PROVINCE**

**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](http://laydominicancentral.org)**

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## Who am I?

**Last month's Saint was  
Mechtild of Magdeburg.**

I am a man living my Dominican vocation as a Friar, presently at St. Pius V Priory in Chicago.

In 1972-74 I was the 2nd Vice President of the National Catholic Forensic League (Fenwick HS). I also taught Homiletics at Aquinas Institute, St. Louis, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC, St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul. I am a preacher on *The Word*.

Not avoiding controversy when necessary I and many other Friars signed a letter of LCWR support. I lovingly served as the Provincial LD Promoter

**WHO AM I?**

## .A BRIDGE TOO ???

Several older priests and their Cardinal Archbishop were attending a retreat at a private resort owned by a big donor.

One afternoon they were wandering the grounds as a group and came upon an old bridge which crossed a lovely pond.

They began to cross the bridge, not noticing a small sign declaring the bridge unsafe.

Suddenly a nearby security

guard shouted at them, "Hey, you there, get off the bridge!"

The Cardinal, taking charge, said, "It's all right. We're at this resort with permission. We're Catholics."

"Maybe so," said the guard, "but if you don't get off that bridge you'll all be Baptists!"



## Contemplari...

There is a strange symbiotic relationship between our Contemplation and our lives. They are connected while one and the same. Each affects and enlivens the other. It is all God-driven.

In Contemplation we make room for God. We lose our lives while gaining our lives. A new life; a life united to God.

Contemplation is a prayer of simplicity. So our lives should reflect this simplicity. Henry David Thoreau said the secret of life is to "simplify, simplify, simplify...Our life is frittered away by detail."

Life coaches tell us that without a plan we will become subsumed with meaningless stuff.

Does your home, your office/



bedroom reflect your mind as filled with clutter? Ask yourselves these questions by Brooks Palmer in *Clutter Busting*:

- *If my home were a store, would I consider buying what I currently own?*
- *If my home were a refrigerator, which items have passed the expiration date?*
- *Are you keeping this item just because it was expensive? a great bargain?*
- *If I had to make an emergency move, which items would I save?*

***What you own, owns you!***