

NOVENA
IN HONOUR OF
ST. DOMINIC

in preparation of
the solemnity of St. Dominic –August 8th

JULY 30TH – AUGUST 7TH

An adaptation of Traditional Dominican Devotions
by Dominican Student Brothers,
St. Thomas Aquinas Priory,
Ibadan, Nigeria

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Dominicans
Province of St. Joseph the Worker
(Nigeria & Ghana)

**St. Dominic Priory
P.O. BOX 44
Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria**

FIRST DAY

THEME: THE FORCE OF GOOD EXAMPLE

- V. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of Your love.
V. Send forth Your Spirit and our hearts shall be created.
R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"He took the right course of converting the people, he rooted out the iniquitous abominations, he set his heart on the Lord, in godless times he upheld the cause of religion" (Sirach. 49:2-3)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading: "Lumen Ecclesiae; Light of the Church"

St. Dominic was born in Spain, A.D. 1170. With the dawn of reason his whole soul turned to God. His childhood was most pious, and his youth angelic in purity. In the University of Palencia he was the model student. When twenty-five, he became a Canon Regular at Osma, and with the religious habit he put on the Lord Jesus Christ and strove in all things to imitate Him. His time was divided into prayer, study of Holy Scripture, and community duties. Silence and retirement were his delight; works of penance and tears of contrition his meat and drink. Going in 1205 to France, he spent many years in every kind of labour for the conversion of the Albigensian heretics. Like Jesus Christ he passed the day in apostolic work, the night in prayer. His penance was extreme, but to others he was gentle, sweet and kind. Many were converted by his miracles, many, by the example of his holy life. Six times he journeyed to Rome, once to Spain, once to Paris, walking barefoot, praying or singing on the road, preaching in the towns and villages, spending the nights in contemplation. He founded in 1215 the Order of Friars Preachers for the conversion of souls. He was a man of truly apostolic heart, a column of the faith, a trumpet of the Gospel, the light of Christ to men. He died at Bologna in 1221.

Responsory

The father bids the world prepare
The nuptials of the Lamb to share;
The hour has struck; the Master sends
His faithful servant to His friends.

- R:** Rich food of life He offers all,
Who come, responsive to His call.

And Dominic His herald names,
Who through the world the feast proclaims.

- R.** Rich food of life He offers all,
Who come, responsive to His call.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

R. Rich food of life He offers all,
Who come, responsive to His call.

O Lumen

O light of the Church, Doctor of Truth
Rose of patience, Ivory of chastity.
Freely have you dispensed the waters of wisdom
Preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O most enlightened teacher of divine truth, holy father, St. Dominic, who did teach what was profitable for salvation and did make yourself all things to all men, that you might win all to Christ; help us to close our ears and hearts to all false doctrine and whatever may be hurtful to our souls and to open them joyfully to the truths of Holy Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SECOND DAY

THEME: HUMILITY

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"Make your own mind, the mind of Christ, Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped at. But He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:5-8)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading: "DOCTOR VERITATIS, DOCTOR OF TRUTH"

Humility is the foundation of perfection, and in St. Dominic it was deep and strong. So clear was his knowledge of the deep majesty of God and his own nothingness that he lived always in lowly fear and self-distrust. Though most innocent, he considered himself to be a base sinner, unworthy of the least grace. Constantly he prostrated himself before God, praying for long with his face on the ground, shedding abundant tears. Often he would strike his breast, exclaiming, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." Before entering a town to preach, he used to kneel down on the road, begging God not to punish the people for his sins but to make his labour fruitful. When

passing an altar or crucifix he would bow profoundly, in token of his nothingness. He often said with tears, "I am not worthy to behold heaven on account of my sins." Praise and honour he heartily detested, and thrice refused a bishopric. Once he raised the son of a Roman widow to life, and the Pope ordered the wonder to be published. "Holy Father," said Dominic, "I must fly; I can remain here no longer." At the General Chapter he said to his brethren, "I deserve to be deposed from my office, for I am negligent and relaxed." When asked where he would be buried, "Under the feet of my brethren," said the humble saint. The saints, though great in virtue, look upon themselves as worthless, because they see themselves in the light of God, and knowing Him they know themselves. "Our righteousness," St. Dominic would say, "when compared to the righteousness of God, is mere uncleanness." "Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you shall find rest to your souls." (St. Matthew 11: 29.)

Responsory

Chosen by Christ's free grace, he comes;
For sinner's needs to us he's given

R Called to the work whilst yet unborn,
His advent's marked by signs from heaven.

The star upon his infant brow,
Shining with radiance pure and mild,
Reveals the splendour hid within
The spirit of the newborn child. (**R**)

Glory be etc. (**R**)

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us,

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

Let us pray.

O holy father, St. Dominic, true lover of humility, who, the greater you did appear in the sight of men, did humble yourself the more before God: be to us a loving guide, that, following in your footsteps we may be enabled to withstand all the snares of the enemy, and spending our lives in earnest prayer, self-denial and humility, we may, at the hour of death, be received with thee into heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.

R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

THIRD DAY

THEME: COMPUNCTION OF HEART

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"Those who fear the Lord do their best to please Him, and those who love Him will find sanctification in the

law. Those who fear the Lord keep their hearts prepared and humble themselves in His presence. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord and not into any human clutches; for as His majesty is, so too is His mercy." (Sirach 2:20-23.)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading: "ROSA PATIENTIA, ROSE OF PATIENCE"

Though so pure that Holy Church calls him "Ivory of Chastity," and Christian art puts a lily into his hands, Dominic was always weeping over sin. His soul being full of contrition, acts of sorrow were constantly upon his lips. On seeing towns or villages, he used to weep over the sins committed there against God. Though so cheerful with others, in his prayers he shed many tears. But this sorrow was not merely hidden in the soul, it bore fruit in works of penance. Thrice every night he scourged himself to blood: once for his own sins, once for those of others, once for the suffering souls. He was a rule of abstinence, even on journeys never eating flesh meat or food cooked with meat. His fasts were strict and continual; even when travelling over Europe on foot, he fasted from September till Easter, though preaching daily. For ten years he tasted no wine, and afterwards, by order of superiors, only a few drops in water. He never had a room or bed of his own, but slept anywhere, on the ground, a bench, the altar-step. He was tightly girded with an iron chain, only found after his death. Being a zealous lover of rule, he punished faults severely, but with such fatherly love that penance was sweet from his hands. "If you have no sins of your own to weep for," St. Dominic would say, "still weep, after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, and grieve for the sinners of the world, that they may repent." "No one who does not carry his cross and come after Me can be My disciple." (St. Luke 14:27.)

Responsory

The Word of life he loud proclaims,
Nor shame nor fear does know.

R. His pen defends the faith of Christ
And vanquishes the foe.

Three times the book -- O wondrous sight!
Amidst the flames they cast;
Three times, uninjured, it is flung
From out the fiery blast. **(R)**

Glory be, etc. **(R)**

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O zealous preacher of penance, holy father, St. Dominic, whose ardent desire for the salvation of souls made you ever ready to endure the greatest labours and fatigues and even to give your life in order to win them to God, pray for us, that treading in the steps of Jesus crucified, the Redeemer and Physician of souls, we may disregard all suffering and generously sacrifice ourselves for the needs of others. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

FOURTH DAY

THEME: ST. DOMINIC'S PRAYER

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and inspired songs. Sing praise to the Lord with all your hearts. Give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-20)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading: ST. DOMINIC'S PRAYER

Prayer was the breath of St. Dominic's life, the light on his path, the staff of his pilgrimage. He prayed always. In childhood his delight was to serve Mass, to visit the Blessed Sacrament, and to chant the Office. As a student, he drank in wisdom more from prayer than from books. He won more souls by prayer than by preaching or miracles. Fervent and humble prayer was the sling and stone with which he overthrew the Goliath of heresy. In travelling, always on foot, he prayed as he went, sometimes singing *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, "Come, O Creator Spirit," or *Ave, Maris Stella*, "Hail, Star of the Sea," or making earnest ejaculations, or reciting psalms. Sometimes he walked behind his companions, saying, "Let us each think of our Divine Lord," and often they found him kneeling in a thicket of wood, lost in God. His nights were passed before the altar, and his short sleep was taken on the stone pavement, his companions being often awakened by his groans and loud supplications. His methods of prayer were various; sometimes he lay prostrate, then stood erect, then knelt down. For hours he would stand before a Crucifix, genuflecting and making fervent ejaculations. Often he stretched out his arms like a cross, crying earnestly to God. He was often seen raised into the air in rapture by the vehemence of his prayer. "In all labours and disquiets, in hunger, thirst, fatigue, his heart turned always to God."

Responsory

Most Sublime heights of poverty he reaches,
And thence against the crimes of men he preaches;
His enemies before him prostrate lie,
Or, breathing vengeance, turn their backs and fly.

R. The saint, undaunted, fears no earthly foe;
To martyrdom for Christ full gladly would he go.

By night his soul in prayer is raised to heaven;
To preach the Master's Word his days are freely given. **(R)**

Glory be to the Father, etc. **(R)**.

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic pray for us

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

Let us pray.

O God, Who enlightened Your Church by the eminent virtues and preaching of St. Dominic, Your confessor and our father, mercifully grant that by his prayers we may be provided for against all temporal necessities and ever increase in spiritual good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.

R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

FIFTH DAY

THEME: HOW TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF PRAYER

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips; he walked with Me in peace and in equity and turned many away from iniquity." (Mal. 2:6.)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading

As an unbridled tongue destroys a spirit of prayer, Dominic loved silence and retirement, that he might dwell with God. His intimate friend, William of Montserrat, said that "Dominic always kept the silence prescribed by the custom and rule of the Order, abstained from idle words, and always spoke either of God or to God." Seldom speaking of earthly things, his conversation was in heaven, and his heart could freely rest on God. Moreover, he carefully guarded his senses. If others spoke idly, he began to pray. On journeys his eyes were cast down, and he seldom noticed anything as he passed along. He fed his soul with constant spiritual reading. His books were the Bible and Cassian's Conferences of the Fathers of the Desert, and these he read continually from youth till death. The Holy Scriptures he always carried, and ordered his spiritual children diligently and unceasingly to read them. At dinner one religious used to read aloud, that the souls of all might feed on the Word of God. Dominic used to sit alone after dinner reading the Holy Scriptures. He would kiss the sacred volume, sign himself with the Cross, and then read, often with tears, always with many prayers. When ill with fever, lying on a hard rough bed, he asked the brethren to read to him, in turns, the Holy Scriptures. "If any man offends not in words, the same is a perfect man!" (St. James 3:2.)

Responsory

With wondrous loaves the brethren are fed,
Supplied from heaven at their father's prayers.

R. A child to life he raises from the dead,
And bids the weeping mother dry her tears.

He stays the rainfall with the sign of our salvation;

His words are understood by men of every nation. (R)

Glory be to the Father, etc. (R)

O Lumen

- V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

O most holy father, St. Dominic, who did ever show yourself loving to all and did never despise, wound or offend anyone, obtain for me from our most sweet Savior, Christ, the grace to be severe only to myself and my evil passions and always gentle and loving towards my neighbor, ever, like Him, pardoning all who injure or offend me. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

- V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SIXTH DAY

THEME: DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND OUR LADY

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest in which she puts her young by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God!" (Psalms 84:2-4)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading

The adorable Eucharist and the holy Mother of God were objects of Dominic's special devotion. His lively faith made the altar his paradise. Before the tabernacle he spent his nights, finding there rest after his labours; and arriving weary and footsore from a journey, he always visited the Blessed Sacrament before refreshing his body. However much fatigued, he always celebrated Mass, if possible singing it, and during the Sacrifice, tears flowed in streams down his face, moving all present to devotion. "Never," said Stephen of Lombardy, "do I remember his celebrating without tears." Sometimes at the elevation his body rose visibly in the air. Of God's holy Mother he was always an ardent and reverent lover. His life, his work, his Order were placed under her protection, and he invoked her in every difficulty and danger. He began the custom of saying the "Hail Mary" before preaching. She filled him with heavenly favours, watched over him with motherly care, and gave the habit of his Order. A tradition cherished in his Order, and supported by the testimonies of many popes, ascribes to him the first teaching of the Rosary. The sweet and tender Mother often appeared to him and consoled him at the hour of death. His disciples were called "Friars of Mary," and have carried her rosary and scapular to the uttermost parts of the earth. "I am the Bread of Life; he that comes to Me shall not hunger and he that believes in Me shall never

thirst." (John 6:35.) "I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come over to me, all who desire me, and be filled with my fruits." (Sirach 24:18; John 14:6)

Responsory

The chaff of human frailty
Threshed out by holy poverty,
The good seed sown
To fruit hath grown,
And, ripe for God, is quickly garnered home.

R. The virgin's lily shining in his hand,
Amongst the doctors Dominic does stand.

A flower blooming amidst other flowers fair,
The mighty saint for aye a double crown shall wear. **(R)**
Glory be to the Father, etc. **(R)**

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

O most blessed father, St. Dominic, who did love our Lord Jesus Christ in the most perfect manner, and did serve Mary, His Virgin Mother with most fervent devotion, pray for us, your children, that we may ever grow in love of the adorable Sacrament of the altar, and that, next to God, we may at all times trust in the protection of the Queen of Heaven, so that at the hour of death we may be received by her into heaven, and ever abide under the mantle of her love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY

THEME: LOVE OF GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not abides in death. In this we have known the charity of God, because He has laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (I John, 3:14-16.)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading

Love is the fulfilling of the law, and Dominic, the preacher of God's law, was consumed with the fire of love. In all his actions his love for God appeared, and his constant prayer was that he might have true charity and love God purely for His own sake. From this love sprang that ardent desire to suffer for God which made him a martyr in spirit. So deeply was he moved by the love of Jesus Crucified that he longed to die for Him. His life of generous self-sacrifice proved his love sincere. As a youth he sold his only treasure - the books from which he studied - to feed the famine-stricken poor. His life was entirely devoted to the hardest apostolic labour, traveling on foot far and wide to seek the lost sheep of the Good Shepherd and braving every kind of danger. His prayers for souls were continual, and daily his blood flowed in penance for their sins. The one object of his Order was the salvation of souls. Throughout life he longed to preach to the heathen, hoping for martyrdom. His compassion was so tender that he was moved to tears whenever he thought of the sufferings and miseries of others. To all he was gentle, sweet and merciful. Twice he desired to be sold into slavery - once to redeem a widow's son, and once to relieve poverty caused by conversion to the Catholic Church. The true love of God is proved by the desire to be like Christ, and to labour and suffer for others. "Every one that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not, knows not God. For God is charity." (I John 6:7-8.)

Responsory

O happy, glorious vine, whose living sap o'erflowing,
Has fertilized the world, on all men life bestowing

R. A consecrated vessel, replete with heavenly wine,
You offer to all mankind, the cup of grace divine.

Your fruitful branches circle
Our great world all around,
And, ever, sweet new tendrils
Are springing o'er the ground. **(R)**

Glory be to the Father, etc. **(R)**

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

O holy father, St. Dominic, who did show us the way to eternal happiness, and did win many souls to God by founding the Order of Friars Preachers, pray for us, that we may follow in your footsteps, and ever work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

EIGHTH DAY

THEME: THE DEATH OF ST. DOMINIC

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"Well done, good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord." (Matthew 25:21.)

Silent reflection or brief homily

Spiritual Reading

St. Dominic died at Bologna, in 1221, on Friday, August 6, at mid-day. Father Ventura, Prior of Bologna, was present and thus describes the blessed end of that holy life. "Father Dominic returned from Venice about the end of July. Although very weary with traveling, he conversed on the affairs of the Order with me till late. I begged him to rest that night but he prayed in the church till Matins at midnight, and then was present in choir. Afterwards he complained of his head, and his last illness began. Lying on a straw mattress, he called the novices around him and exhorted them to fervor with cheerful words and smiling countenance. After being carried to a hill not far off, for better air, he preached a touching sermon to the brethren and was then anointed. Fearing lest he might not be buried 'under the feet of his brethren,' he was carried back to the convent. After an hour he said, 'Begin.' Then did we begin the prayers for a departing soul, and Dominic joined, his lips moving, until the words 'Help him, you saints of God,' when he gave up the spirit." During the same year in winter a marvelous perfume was perceived throughout the church in which he was buried, particularly near his grave. Many miracles were wrought where the sacred body rested. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man to conceive what God hath prepared for them that love Him." (I Cor. 2:9.)

Responsory

From this vale of grief, ascending,
See our father rise on high,
While the angels' voices, blending,
Greet him with sweet minstrelsy.

R. Jesus, by his prayers of might,
Make us pleasing in Your sight!

By the Holy Name of Jesus.
You did raise the dead to life;
Now, through Him, our loving Savior,
Loose our souls from sin and strife. **(R)**

Glory be to the Father, etc. **(R)**

O Lumen

V. Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

O most kind father, St. Dominic, by your saintly life and precious death, bless and guide us in the path of your holy rule, that persevering therein even until death, we may, through it, attain the eternal joys of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain with us always.

R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

NINTH DAY

THEME: DEVOTION TO ST. DOMINIC

Come, O Holy Spirit, etc.

ROSARY

Scripture Reading

"This is the covenant with them which I myself have made, says the Lord: and my words that I have put into your mouth shall never leave your mouth, nor the mouths of your children, nor the mouths of your children's children, from now on and forever, says the Lord. (Isaiah 59:21)

Spiritual Reading Miracles of St. Dominic

The power of St. Dominic's prayer was marvelous, and his charity made him use it to help others. In 1206, to test the truth, the Albigensians cast two books into the flames. Theirs, containing their heresy, was destroyed; Dominic's contained the Catholic faith, and remained unburnt. Once his books fell into a river and were restored to him uninjured. Crossing a ferry, he had no money, and the man insisting on payment, Dominic prayed, and money lay at his feet. On a journey he accompanied a foreign religious, whose language he did not understand; Dominic's prayer enabled them to converse on spiritual subjects. Forty English, upset in a deep river, were drowning; Dominic prayed, and they were saved. Three dead persons he raised to life in Rome. One, a cardinal's nephew, was killed by a fall from his horse; Dominic said Mass with abundant tears, then, standing by the dead man's head, he was raised in the air a cubit high, and crying, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, arise!" the dead man rose alive and well. By prayer he drove out devils and cured many sick. Food was brought by angels at his prayer, and wine to refresh his brethren. Many heretics and sinners were converted by his powerful prayers. "Be therefore followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (I Cor. 11:1.)

Responsory

O wondrous hope, which our true father gave,
When round his dying bed the weeping brethren knelt -
That he would stronger be, to succor and to save,
From heaven above, than when on earth he dwelt:

R. Fulfill, O father, your most gracious word,
And plead for us with Christ, your Friend and Lord!

You, who from suffering men diseases fell did chase,
Bring to our sin-sick souls the balm of Christ's sweet grace. **(R)**

Glory be to the Father, etc. **(R)**

O Lumen

- V.** Blessed Father Dominic Pray for us
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who are weighed down by the burden of our sins, may be raised up by the intercession of Blessed Dominic, Your confessor and our father. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- V.** May the divine assistance remain with us always.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.