

Obligations of Members

On Going Formation 4-6

2018

Obligations of Members

Principle Obligations for Members

(None are binding under pain of sin)

To fulfill the obligation of daily prayer, a member should pray a liturgical office and 5 decades of the rosary.

DAILY

1. The recitation of the Divine Office or 15 decades of the rosary or 5 decades if one is impeded from doing more.
2. One Our Father, Hail Mary and Eternal Rest etc. for all Dominicans living and deceased.
3. 15 min. of mental prayer or reading of sacred scripture which may replace the recitation of the Office.
4. Mass and Communion daily if possible is recommended and should be our goal.

Weekly

1. Minimally Sunday Mass and Eucharist

Monthly

1. Confession at least once.
2. Participation at meetings of the Chapter.

Yearly

1. To assist at or have celebrated at least 3 masses for all living and deceased Dominicans.
2. Fasting on the vigil of the feasts of St. Dominic, St. Catherine and the Holy Rosary insofar as this may be possible.

Practices Recommended

1. Annual retreat of 3 days, or single days of recollection.
2. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year or some special penance.
3. Modesty in dress, recreation, and avoidance of worldliness.
4. Personal apostolate of good works, prayer or suffering.
5. Involvement in the objectives of Vatican II.

Study of Sacred Truth. Truth is more than our motto. As it was the basis of St. Dominic's spirituality and apostolate so it must be ours. Truth comes from God by way of revelation and study. A member can come to know the truth by study of the word of God as revealed to us in Sacred Scripture, especially the New Testament, in the teaching of the church and in the lives of those who were exemplary followers of Christ. Both in chapter and in private, the study of Divine truth is an essential part of the Dominican's way of life. For obtaining this objective, Chapters should establish, with the guidance of the spiritual director the means suited to their needs.

Apostolate. Every Lay Fraternity member, as every Christian, should consider having a personal apostolate flowing from his or her spiritual life. Where advisable, Chapters may have a chapter

apostolate to assist those members who require leadership and moral support of their brethren and particularly to respond to some local need especially the religious instruction of children. Participating in such a chapter apostolate is always optional to the members.

Every chapter usually has a definite and effective program for visiting sick members, an apostolate recommended by the example of Christ Himself. Other apostolates may be suggested by the circumstances and special talents of individual members. The apostolate of prayer and suffering is not to be minimized especially the rosary.

Because of Christ's teachings (Mt7:12, 22:39 & 25:3-46), every Christian is obliged to perform the works of mercy according to his ability and the need of his neighbor. The chief works of mercy are traditionally the following 14.

The 7 corporal works of mercy

- 1.feed the hungry
- 2.give drink to the thirsty
- 3.clothe the naked
- 4.visit the imprisoned
- 5.shelter the homeless
- 6.visit the sick
- 7.bury the dead

The 7 spiritual works of mercy

- 1.admonish the sinner
- 2.instruct the ignorant
- 3.counsel the doubtful
- 4.comfort the sorrowful
- 5.bear wrongs patiently
- 6.forgive all injuries
- 7.pray for the living and the dead

Because of the relative scarcity of Christians equipped to perform the first four spiritual works of mercy, God raised up, and his church authorized, the Order of Preachers precisely to specialize in these.

In addition St. Dominic, who's Charism the church has canonized and enjoined his order to continue, was preeminent in the practice of all the spiritual works of mercy. Consequently, we, as a chapter, look to our Franciscan brothers and sisters and to others similarly enjoined to fulfill their own specific role of focusing on the seven corporal works of mercy, while we ourselves emphasize the seven spiritual works of mercy.

We refer specifically to the message to Fr. Gobbi in Brazil on 2/26/91 in which we quote Our Lady's words "How subtle is the snare of my adversary, who often leads you to put all your priestly energy into healing the wounds of the poor and exploited, in order thus to make you forget to look above all at the deep wounds of the sinners and the wicked. Give the food of the grace of God to these souls who are dying of hunger."

