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*For Review*

THE  
DOMINICAN TERTIARY  
APOSTOLATE

by

IGNATIUS SMITH  
O.P., S.T.Lr., Ph.D., LL.D.



*"Among the means of holiness most useful and opportune for the defense and progress of Christian Faith and Morals in our day, we recognize the Dominican Third Order as one of the most eminent, easy and secure."* **POPE BENEDICT XV.**

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THIRD ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC IN THE UNITED STATES.



*Information on the Rule of the Third Order, the  
requirements for reception and profession will be cor-  
dially furnished by the Rev. Edward Hughes, O.P., 141  
East 65th Street, New York, N. Y.*

CUM PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

**Deacidified**

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# THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC

. . . *A Crusade for Human Betterment*

✠ ✠ RUGGED as the Pyrenees which cradled it, romantic as the Thirteenth Century which gave it birth, far seeing as the Guzman who presented it to society, crystalizing the experience of seven hundred years, vital with the enthusiasm of its modern leadership, far reaching in the numbers and character of its membership the Third Order of St. Dominic challenges your attention today in this convention with its clarion call to thinking men and women of Catholic belief to join it in a crusade for human betterment.

You are not a group of impractical mystics or of fanatical zealots. You are lay men and lay women, married and unmarried, of every profession and of every social level seeking personal sanctification in your homes, in your offices and in your ordinary occupations of daily life with the inspirations and help that the Third Order of St. Dominic provides you.

You are not aiming to introduce into the world a new kind of esoteric Catholicity. You are seeking to present to the world ordinary Catholic life in all the completeness of its beauty and power. You seek social reconstruction not through legislation and the compulsion of public authority but rather through the exercise of religion in the sanctuary of personal life. You seek not to reform the individual through society but to reform society through the individual and your presence here today is an indication of the seriousness of your intention and an invitation to all serious minded Catholics to join you in this distinctively Catholic purpose. Your membership in this organization is probably not known among your fellow citizens in the many communities from which you come and in which you form a body of dependable citizenry. You wear no regalia to distinguish you; you are not made singular by narrowness of mind in your judgment of others; you are not opponents of public amusement or of community joy; you are not meddlesome monitors of the moral deportment of others; you are not lay monks or lay nuns crusading publicly for righteousness. You are singular only in privileges that you enjoy as members of this time hallowed Order and in the seriousness with which you take your obligation to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. And you find in the Third Order of St. Dominic the gratification of the basic needs of your religious hearts. Let me explain this.

### NEED OF EXEMPLARS

Is there among us any one who does not feel the need of models and exemplars from whose lives we may copy the characters that have been written there by God? Is there any one among us who, in the struggle to realize the exalted idealism of the Gospel, does not feel the need of the example of

other men and women of flesh and blood who have achieved success in a heroic degree in living the commandments and counsels of the Gospel? Membership in this order gives you these models and exemplars; they are saints, men and women; they came from every walk of life and from various nations of the world but they are one, as you are one, in their common devotion to the cause that absorbs you and in their proof that the ideals of a Dominican Tertiary can be lived.

Who is there among us who does not feel in meeting the problems of life that we must have traditions to be guided by? We need traditions to ennoble the background of our minds, to encourage the timid, to give us legitimate pride and self respect and to bring the experience of the past to the problems of the present. For all of these purposes we must have traditions about which we may boast and on which we may draw for inspiration. Happy is the nation with lofty traditions to guide it. Happy is the religion with traditions to direct it and control it. Happy are men and women in this arena of life with traditions to support them. Traditions, seven centuries old, the Order of Preachers has. Traditions of seven hundred years of progressive intelligent, learned, unflinching and undivided loyalty, fealty and service of Jesus Christ and His Church are the sacred possession of the Order of St. Dominic. Traditions begun by Dominic, sustained and adorned by Albert, Thomas, Pius, Catherine of Siena and a galaxy of others: Traditions of learning, piety, preaching, teaching, prayer, purity and service of the unfortunate. In these we ask you of the Third Order to share and over these we tell you to boast.

Who is there among us who does not feel lonely in the struggle for spiritual perfection and the need of the companionship of those who think and desire to live as we do. In the Third Order of St. Dominic you receive such compan-

ionship and such strength. You are joined, in your chapters and by your membership, with others who are seeking to scale the heights of duty. You are not alone. You are enheartened by their presence. Akin in mind and atune in soul you advance with them. You are a part of the great procession that for seven hundred years has been slowly making its way into heaven under the banner of Dominic of Guzman. On the walls and battlements of Carcasonne your fraternity carried arms, it was the militia of Christ. Today within the canyoned cities of the nation they continue to march on but now with the arms of prayer and penance. Its purpose is changed but the procession marches on across the face of the earth, spanning the mountains, leaping the oceans, hurdling the boundaries of the nations, vaulting over the barricades of the centuries, passing through the purification of Purgatory, onward, onward and upward to heaven to eternal bliss, to that special protection under the cloak of Mary in another world. And you are there, a part of that astounding panorama, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart with Vincent Ferrer, Louis Bertrand, John of Gorcum, Catherine de Ricci, Agnes of Monte Pulciano, Rose of Lima. You are not alone. You are not alone even in death because others come after you, to carry you along the Royal Highway, with prayers and suffrages. You are not alone here or hereafter.

### PROFIT SHARING ORGANIZATION

Who is there among us who does not feel at times the utter worthlessness of our highest spiritual efforts? We need the assurance of a great reward to make the struggle of this life constant and to make the hope of future glory vital. *God* holds out to you the reward of *your own* good deeds. *The Third Order of St. Dominic* is a profit sharing organization

that throws its spiritual assets into one great treasury on which you of the Third Order may draw at will. The merits of its teachers, of its preachers, of its missionaries, of the entire white robed army of men and women whose prayers, sacrifices and services make bright the dark spots of the entire world,—these merits, these rewards are yours, a share in them is yours as a member of the great Dominican family. Thus it is with reason that we declare that membership in this religious family gratifies the basic instincts of the religious heart and answers its fundamental religious needs. Such membership is also a dedication of life to the basic teachings and practices of Christ and His Church so needed by the world today.

The single word on our shield is "Truth." Simple as this word may be it implies a great complexity of objectives and of duties. The story of the development of human thought and the history of scholarly research reveal to all the contribution that has been made during seven hundred years to the content of Truth by the illustrious scholars of the Order of Preachers. They have discovered, they have organized, they have taught, they have preached, they have praised, they have blessed, they have defended Truth, human and divine. But not only have they been devoted to truth of doctrine but to Truth of Justice and Truth of Life as well. Truth of justice demands the squaring of conscience with every obligation that is owed to our fellowman. Truth of Life demands the fulfillment of duty that we owe to our God. I have said that you share in our privileges. I say also that you share in our common obligations to see, as members of the Dominican family, that the rights of God are respected, that the rights of humanity are revered and that the rights of truth prevail. To this your membership is dedicated and to participate in this mission is the invitation we extend to like minded persons throughout the country today.

## INTELLIGENT LOYALTY TO CHURCH

Our Dominican affiliation obligates us to an intelligent and submissive loyalty to our Church and to the person of the Holy Father. We of the Dominican family in America find that the fulfillment of this duty is of special help to our country in an hour of need and a bulwark of protection to civilization itself at a time when thinking men feel that it is in jeopardy.

The most permanent institution in a shaking and shifting world is the Catholic Church. The surest and most certain voice in a welter of hesitant world leadership is the voice of the Holy Father. You are living in an age when the traditional boast and the traditional duty of loyalty and service to the Church and to the vicar of Christ becomes at the same time a tremendous service to the perpetuity of our nation and the progress of civilization.

Another basic teaching of Christ, a practice of our religion that is insisted upon by your Third Order is the practice of penance and self denial. You are known as the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. You voluntarily look for suffering if it has not been sent to you by man or God. You accept it when it comes in the spirit of the Christ who voluntarily carried His cross to the summit of Calvary and who wrote there in letters of blood a story of selflessness that you are trying to relive today in your own way for the edification of mankind. Your devotion to voluntary suffering and self discipline must speak to the world today. They must open through the black clouds of bitterness and despair a clear vision of Jesus Christ to a world that has lost not only a regard for suffering but also has lost its grip on the motives that make suffering tolerable and noble. Service of the Truth, service of the Church, service of the supreme Pontiff, service of the poor and the downtrodden, service and example to the suffering,—these



are but a few of the distinctive teachings and practices upon which this fellowship is built and with which we challenge the attention of the world today.

Our future is not in doubt. Our usefulness in the days to come is beyond question. The apostasy from religion, morality and social order which occasioned the birth of this organization seven hundred years ago brought on a misery and chaos from which society was lifted by the pious and public profession of faith of the Tertiaries of the past. The chaos and human misery in which the peoples of the earth now grope have not been without their antecedent apostasy from religion, morality and social order. Reconstruction, whether or not international convocations of the best minds realize it or admit it, will be hastened only by a serious return to the things of God. You who are familiar with the boulevards to the Omnipotent can and must lead the way. You of the Third Order are the beacon lights in the flight back to God. Your future will be one of usefulness to religion and to the happiness of mankind.

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## THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC AND THE RECOVERY OF THE NATION

✠ ✠ WE HAVE ASSEMBLED this afternoon to commemorate the rededication of the Third Order of St. Dominic to the program of Catholic Action. A new commission has come from our Holy Father, Pope Pius the Eleventh, the Protector of our Order; from the Master General of our Fraternity and from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate. This commission is issued to the Dominican Tertiaries of the entire world and it comes with peculiar significance to the secular tertiaries of the United States whether of the laity or of the priesthood. This commission authorizes and deputizes us to begin at once under the auspices of our Order a solemn crusade that will present very actively every phase of Catholic life to society at large. It is a commission that is entrusted by the Holy Father to Dominican Tertiaries because he deems them safe and qualified.

The circumstances of its origin and the facts of its experience indicate that the Third Order of St. Dominic is qualified to enter at once into the arena of Catholic Action for the defence of the Church's interests and for the betterment of the world. The basic obligation of that primal band of Penitents of the Pyrenees on whom Dominic built his Third Order was growth in personal holiness. Over and above this it was demanded of them that they mobilize their numbers and strength in the defence of the rights and property of the Church. Moreover it was exacted of them by solemn promise that they be ready at all times to advance Christian faith and morals. This, the essence of Catholic Action, was inextricably associated with the origin of the Third Order and in the fulfillment of which it even carried arms along the walls of Carcassonne as the Militia of Jesus Christ.

### THE SPIRIT OF THE THIRD ORDER

The atmosphere that surrounded the birth of the Third Order has become the tradition of seven hundred years and in general the spirit of the Third Order has been not only to acquire the truth and the perfection of Catholic life, but, as the watch dogs of the Lord, as the hallowed wrestlers of Jesus Christ, to present them to mankind, intact and vital. In every country and in every generation this organization, not seeking great numbers but never without great power, sought aggressively and intelligently to prove that Christ still lived. In every century of the last seven hundred years this holy fraternity has carried on a successful crusade to induce mankind to take the teachings of Christ seriously and to live His counsels and precepts literally. It has translated the love of God and the love of men into terms of service and it has made for the spiritual and corporal works of mercy sanctuaries

and laboratories in the universities, schools, hospitals, asylums and private homes of every nation and for seven centuries.

To us of this origin and of this experience comes this commission from the Vicar of Christ to prosecute at this time and with renewed devotion this work of seven centuries in our homes, in our parishes and in every other institution of modern society among the Christians at home and among the pagans abroad. We are asked to erect spiritual and solid foundations beneath the tottering structure of civilization. We are asked to do this because the world at large and this nation of ours are sick. We are asked to assume a task that we accept with the confidence of successful accomplishment because this nation needs the cure which aggressive Catholic Action carried on by Dominican Tertiaries can offer.

## THE NATIONAL CRISIS

I say that the nation is sick. I mean that we are in the midst of a national crisis over which even the most optimistic of our leaders are concerned and which reaches into every nook and corner of national life. The political peace of this government and of every other government in the world is threatened. There is no nation that can seriously promise that it will endure under its present form of sovereignty. Even in our own country the democratic aspect of our institutions has been changed and the whole machinery of government is threatened by the universal disregard of our people for law and the growing irreverence for authority. There is on the one hand a growing spirit of murmuring and rebellion created by the feeling of the people that government has been renegade to its duty to preserve the common welfare against the incursions of selfish minorities. On the other hand there is evident a tendency of the people to surrender to dictatorship,

overnight, political liberties that have taken generations to win. There is no doubt that the political life of the nation needs attention.

With the economic crisis of our country we are very familiar. It is not difficult to detect symptoms of national disorder. Great gaps continue to exist between the comfortable rich and the suffering and unemployed poor. Wealth in some sectors continues to reach greedily for more and continues to obstruct by legal and unlawful methods every measure aimed at the more equal and therefore more Christian distribution of wealth. Unemployment still stalks over the nation like a spectre blighting the lives of millions who are eager to labor at tasks that cannot be found. Taxation steadily rises and both small communities and large cities are bankrupt and unable to provide for their residents the full advantages of citizenship. Strikes beset whatever of economic peace has been left and even our vaunted American educational system is on the verge of collapse. The acuteness of our economic troubles is evident.

The domestic life of the nation has been ill for a long time. Its vitality has been sapped by divorce and birth control and it has weakened under competition with our institutions of modern life. It stands feeble and anemic at a time when the nation stands in need of just those virtues that can be developed only in genuine homes with large families.

The religious life of the nation reflects the general debility of our national institutions. Millions of children are reaching the age of maturity each year without a knowledge of the God by whom they were made and from whom protection for our nation has to be sought. There is an ever increasing number of our people unable or unwilling to bring to the aid of the nation, what even pagans realized was necessary for its perpetuity, the worship of God.

The personal lives of a vast majority of our people are disorganized. They hanker for the days of unearned ease. They hate pain. They rebel against self-denial whether it be asked by the law of God or by the recovery act of the nation. They await in misery the return of days that shall never come back. They seek to recover what is impossible of resurrection and undesirable.

This is but the briefest sketch of the national lassitude into which we have fallen and which Catholic Action under the lash of the Third Order of St. Dominic may be able to alleviate.

The erroneous explanations for this crisis of our nation are indicative of the importance of the Third Order at this time. The cause of our trouble is not, as some allege, the collapse of capitalism which has dragged down with it all the other structures of democracy. The greed of employers, the avarice and the perfidy of banks, the impossible demands of employees, our irresponsible and over-worked system of credit and deferred payments: all of these grew up not because of the capitalistic system. They would grow up and destroy any system that was not supported by religion and conscience. The cause of our national crisis is not, as some aver, the scientific progress of the nation which has been so fast that we needed this crisis as a breathing spell to adjust ourselves. We must adjust ourselves to a new concept of the nature of man, a scientific concept of happiness, a new and scientific concept of the nature of God. Scientific progress need not upset any nation if it be realized that what science has discovered has been placed in nature by God and that the machinery and creature comforts produced by science are intended by Providence to lead men to God and not away from Him. The cause of our crisis is not the advanced education of the nation which has made of us a curious, a questioning people quick

to evaluate the treason of legislators, the perfidy of government, the uselessness of many laws, the corruption of many judges and the selfishness of moneyed tax dodgers. If our education has taught our people only to see the flaws and not to constructively plan; if it has taught them only how to murmur and rebel, then it is not enlightenment at all. It is not enlightenment unless it opens up to them visions of recovery, visions that reveal the sweeping vistas between us and the omnipotent God.

The real cause of the depression in our nation has been the abandonment of God, the betrayal of Christ, His teachings and His Church, the apostasy from those social and civic virtues without which no constitution can be operative and without which no recovery program can be effective. The real reason for the crisis in which the nation finds itself is the unleashing of an army of anti-social and anti-national vices like misrepresentation and lying propaganda, injustice, indecency, rebellion and revolt—all of which spring from the lack of contact with God and disregard of conscience.

## A PRACTICAL PROGRAM OF NATIONAL RECOVERY

If this be true you can see the utter fallacy of seeking to alleviate diseases of the national soul with merely external palliatives. It is utter fallacy to attempt national reconstruction or recovery by means of legislation alone, by means of education that does not reach the eternal values of the individual, by means of codes that do not reach the consciences of men. All of these have been tried with feeble success and it is high time that there be presented to the nation a practical code, a constructive code, a workable code, that incorporates within it not only the research of brain trusts but the unshaken wisdom of the Supreme Intelligence of God Himself. The

cure of a malady that is spiritual in origin must be effected by spiritual measures. National recovery will be hastened by the recovery throughout the nation of those virtues that have been lost, those virtues which it is the privilege of Catholic Action to protect and present, just those virtues which, under Providence, have been the distinctive characteristics of Dominican Life for more than seven hundred years.

To Catholic Action and to the program of national recovery we can offer truth, truth of doctrine and truth of speech. To the truth of doctrine revealed by God and discovered by the minds of men, this Order has been particularly devoted for seven centuries. It is that same truth from which the world has departed, which is the secret of national and personal happiness, which is the foundation of civilization. This truth is yours by right of inheritance and the right of spreading it to our neighbors who need it, is your prerogative based upon the age-hallowed experience of your Third Order.

### VIRTUES ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL RECOVERY

To Catholic Action and to the Program of Recovery you can offer truth of speech to dissolve the cowardice which makes men and nations unwilling to confront facts and to tell themselves the raw reality. With this spirit of truth you can dissolve the systematic lying which under the name of national psychology has misled our people, and which under the name of international propaganda is polluting the amicable relations of nations with suspicion, envy, hatred and rumors of war. This Truth is yours because you are a vital part of the Order which for seven hundred years has been in the trenches of Church life gloriously sustaining its mission, written on its shield, "to praise, to bless and to preach the Truth."

Without the virtue of Justice, recovery is impossible for



justice teaches the sanctity of human life no matter in which social, financial or political level it may be found. Justice proclaims the immortal dignity of even the forgotten man and guarantees his rights against the selfish raids of the mighty. Justice guarantees the integrity of property while at the same time it declares the duty of wealth to assume the major responsibility of supporting the needy and of sustaining the state. This concept of justice is bristling in the teachings of the eminent Dominican Scholars like Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Antoninus of Florence. Their teachings have revolutionized the world. God grant that your practical presentation of these teachings at all times will restore the nation to its pristine simplicity and happiness.

Purity was the humble boast of our Holy Father, St. Dominic. Purity and virginity is the inspiring characteristic of every canonized Dominican Saint. Purity is the dominant motive of the single and married life of every successful Tertiary in the great march of the centuries. It is your particular obligation in this age under the injunctions of your holy rule. It is the only antidote for Birth Control, for race suicide, for divorce, for the indecent stage, for the indecent literature, and for the generally immoral atmosphere of many of our pleasures which is making of us what it made of the mighty Romans, a soft and decadent family. It is your holy privilege, by thought, word and deed, in public and in private to keep before the nation in all its attractiveness that ideal of purity which if welded into national life will carry us far on the road to national recovery.

Obedience is the essence of the religious life which you of the Third Order are pledged to reproduce in so far as possible in your own lives. Obedience is the secret of the sanctity of the great men and women, the saints of the Order of Preachers whom you are proud to call your brothers and sisters. It is

the secret of order; it is the foundation of Catholic faith; it is the heart of Catholic life; it is the only force that will save even Catholic Action from disaster. It is the only quality that will keep our nation in these days when it welters in the maelstrom of recovery. Teach it by word and example. Form in your homes citizens imbued with this national virtue. Spread it like a holy contagion throughout this democracy for without it we cannot be saved.

Religion was the virtue that even the pagans found necessary for the integrity of their nations and because of which fact that invented Gods to make religion attractive for their citizens. It was the collapse of worship that began the dissolution of the nations of the past. Religion is the foundation stone of national life. And the religion of which we speak as a contribution of Catholic Action to the recovery of the nation is that religion which you of the Third Order are obligated to practice in even an heroic degree. Works of worship and works of piety. Religion from which springs the love and the service of suffering humanity because of love and the desire to serve the suffering Christ. Spread this religion, by the spoken word, by the written word and from the mightiest pulpit of all, from the pulpit of example.

### THE DOMINICAN TERTIARY MISSION

In the fulfillment of these tasks of bringing back social and national virtues to the people of our country you have a mighty mission that makes the work of the Third Order of St. Dominic never so important as it is now during this crisis. In the accomplishment of this mission you have the blessings of the Fathers of this nation, you have the approval and the inspiration of Holy Mother Church and its reigning pontiff, you have the heavenly encouragement of our Holy Father St.

Dominic and of the vast army of his sons and daughters who gather with Him under the protective mantle of the Blessed Mother in heaven, you have the heartfelt gratitude and support of the members of the first and second orders and of the Master General of all of us, you have the special protection of the Blessed Mother of God and you have the certainty of the continued assistance of her Divine Son in this monumental task of completing His mission. Onward then under the banner of Dominic, pledged to Catholic Action and convinced that in the fulfillment of this Dominican and Catholic service you are serving our God and our nation.

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