

# The Difference Between Dominican Study and “just a book club.”

December 18, 2022

The 4 pillars



just a book club / pious group

Study, Prayer, and Community, all build up, lead to, and strengthen our preaching.

## A book club

1. We do not see the need to get together and be formed by each other.
2. We come and go to our meetings as our schedule allows.
3. We give our opinions about the book we are reading, but we do not know one another deeply nor share our faith.
4. I like coming to the group. I like the people there.
5. We are comforted by the books we read and the opinions of the other members.

## Dominican Community

1. We value regular consistent time together.
2. We are committed to each other. The good and the not so good.
3. We share our lives and our mission in a real and authentic way.
4. We see each other (and all Dominicans) as brother and sister.
5. We are challenged and supported by our brothers and sisters in our community. Communal life is sometimes a place of challenge, and sometimes a place of unity.

# A Book Club

1. We do not see the need nor the value in praying together.
2. We do not deliberately pray for each other. My prayers are “Me and Jesus.”
3. We do not have a calendar for praying for the dead.
4. We go to this event so that I can grow. My actions largely affect me (only).
5. Our intellectual development is at the center of our meetings

# Dominican Prayer

1. “When two or more are gathered together in my name...”
2. As the Body of Christ, we are connected to one another through prayer. We rely on one another for prayerful support.
3. We value our obligations to pray for our deceased family throughout the Liturgical year.
4. We understand and value that our penances can make a difference for others, now and forever.
5. The Mass and liturgy are at the center of our lives.

# What is Dominican Study?



- Focuses on the Word of God
- Is Ongoing and Lifelong
- Nourishes Contemplation
- Is an Observance (ascetic)
- Is not optional
- Truth brings us closer to God
- Truth becomes a person
- is a devotion (way of prayer without ceasing)
- for the whole person and community
- is a responsibility (to have answers)
- combines knowledge with charity
- is not an end, but for the Salvation of Souls
- Is for the Preaching - to be useful to others.

# Dominican Study

1. Study is always for the preaching (never exclusively for our own benefit). Therefore, it is selfless, always for the other.
2. Engages the entire person.
3. Material is interiorized / “devoured.”
4. Uses the head and the heart.
5. Is a sacred activity.
6. Listen to and understand “all” views.
7. Takes great effort.
8. Is supernaturally motivated.
9. Connects us to the poor and suffering.
10. Responds to what is most urgently needed for the Preaching.
11. Is interested in “all” things. (Eternal)
12. Integrates science and devotion.
13. Motivated to know and love God.

# a Book Club

1. We join and choose our books on what gives us individually the most benefit.
2. Engages our mind.
3. Material is learned / understood.
4. Uses the head.
5. Is a secular activity.
6. Proposes one view.
7. Is a leisure activity.
8. Is practically motivated.
9. Is more for our own enjoyment.
10. Involves what I am interested in.
11. Presents one thing. (Here and now).
12. Separates faith and reason.
13. Motivated to know and love things.

# All leads us to our mission as preachers

## Preaching

1. Is God's Words.
2. Is teaching (for the good of the soul).
3. We trust in God.
4. Speaks the Truth.
5. Leads to salvation.
6. God chooses the topic.
7. We are sent by God.
8. Is a moment of humility. We are not worthy.
9. Is backed with / by Scripture.
10. Is always communal.
11. Is done with/for/in/on behalf of the Church.
12. Continues the act of God's creation.
13. Always, anytime, anywhere, with anybody.
14. Takes risk for the sake of the Gospel.

## Public Speaking

1. Is our words.
2. Is proposing a worldly objective.
3. We trust in self.
4. Speaks the opinion of the presenter.
5. Leads to understanding or motivation.
6. We choose the topic.
7. We are asked by others.
8. Is a moment of confidence.
9. Is backed by / with evidence.
10. Is done by an individual.
11. Is done by an individual.
12. Proposes an agenda.
13. Time, place, and audience are often set.
14. Seeks consensus.

## Further Reading:

1. Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P. The Pillars of Dominican Life.  
<http://dominican-liturgy.blogspot.com/>
2. Fr. Paul Murray O.P. "Eat the Book": Study in the Dominican Tradition. Angelicum; Vol. 81, No. 2, Dominican Spirituality (2004), pp. 405-430.
3. Fr. A.G. Sertillanges O.P. The Intellectual Life.



# Pilgrimage to Puerto Rico – Costs

## Your costs:

- Room at Preaching Center  
(\$25.00 per night)
- Your food
- Your travel

## Shared Costs:

- A stipend to Priory

# Next Video Conference Meeting

Sunday February 12 (Super Bowl)  
12:00 pm MTN, 1:00 pm CST; 2:00 pm EST

(Bishop Barron's article: What's Our Church's  
Growth Strategy?)