Catholic education forms students in a manner consistent with the values and teachings of the Church, and helps them grow in faith. It is based on belief in human reason, ethical truth, moral norms and a sacramental imagination. Students learn the importance of building community, proclaiming the message, participating in worship and prayer, and engaging in service.

A Dominican education celebrates a diverse and collaborative community. Students learn to share their talents, recognize the insights of others, and to practice the skills of collaboration and respect. The school community embraces students and families with care, inspiring a desire to God’s love and truth wherever they are – on campus, within the family, the community, the Church, and the world.

A Dominican education is anchored in a spirit of constant prayer. St. Dominic preached that prayer and study were intimately linked, because they lead to a deepening faith in God, recognition of Jesus as Truth, and openness to God’s Spirit expressed in loving service. The search for God through prayer and contemplation leads to a desire for kinship with all of creation and with Earth that sustains it.

A Dominican education forms individuals in love by fostering a life-long love for learning while also learning how to love. Students are encouraged to think, not what to think, as they acquire knowledge and facts. The intellectual and spiritual tradition of the Order of Preachers promotes integrity, and building confidence to proclaim the Gospel as good news for all. In this way knowledge is always at the service of truth.

A Dominican education teaches how every believer is to embrace Jesus’ preaching mission and service as a way of life. The spirit of the Gospel is embodied in community outreach, personal formation, awareness, and advocacy. Enlivened by the truth of the Gospel, young adults grow into Christian leaders as they learn to address critical social issues.
A Brief Glossary

Actions - the deeds performed by those who are hearers of God’s Word and that promote justice in the world, which is at the heart of the Gospel.

Charism - a gift that is embodied in the spirit of a group, given by God to be shared with others.

Contemplate - to pay careful attention.

Dialogue - conversation that encourages respectful listening in the exchange of ideas and opinions for the purpose of arriving at a fuller truth.

Good News - the message of the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus and his disciples: God’s justice, mercy and love are meant for all.

Hospitality - welcoming others, all others, as neighbors.

Itinerant - being constantly on the move.

Living Word - loving God by loving others.

Mendicant - begging for whatever is needed.

Mission - to preach the good news of the gospel, God’s love for all.

Mottos of the Order of Preachers:
  * Contemplata alis Tradere - “handing on to others the fruit of our contemplation”
  * Veritas - “Truth”
  * Caritas - “Love”
  * Laudare, Predicare, Benedictere - “To praise. To bless. To preach.”

Mutuality - an attitude that supports sharing and promotes respect and trust.

O.P. - the worldwide Order of Preachers (Dominicans) founded by St. Dominic in the 13th century, consisting of nuns, friars and sisters.

Prayer - Becoming more fully present to God’s Presence by being with God in silence, in solitude, in community; with scripture, words or music.

Preaching - To communicate the Truth of the Word; that God’s love is meant for all.

Priory, monastery, convent - place of residence for sisters nuns or friars.

Seeking truth - a lifelong pursuit that challenges one to seek truth wherever it is to be found.

Spirituality - an intentional way of living out the life and teachings of Jesus, in a particular culture at a particular time.

Tradition - the patterns and practices, the mottos, stories, customs and teachings, which are preserved and passed on as heritage from one generation to the next.

Suggested Activities
Encourage youth to be energetic, bold and imaginative as they embody Dominic’s Charism and spread the gospel of Jesus wherever its good news needs to be heard.

COMMUNITY
Take some “contemplative” time and pay attention
• to some situation you find troubling
• something for which you want to offer praise and thanks
Page through the Psalms to find a verse that captures both concerns.
• Write a poem using the verse as a refrain.
• Turn it into a song with rhythm and notes.
• Use it in a drama.
• Illustrate it as a visual art.
Classmates and councils. Shift crews and clubs. Neighborhoods and clans. Committees and teams. A coalition has the potential to become a community. Or not.
• What’s worked for you?
• What makes it hard?
• What makes it worthwhile?
• List the leadership skills group members can practice in building community.
• Take time to share the learnings this practice provides.

Lots of groups face a dilemma when the same people do the same tasks in the same way over and over. Sure, it’s often a job well done!
• Name ways a group can recognize and honor difference, and find a place for individuals who reflect that difference.
• Create strategies for promoting shared leadership, and building up confidence among every member of your group.

Prayer
“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God’s love lives in us.”
I John 4:12
What are you known for? How about your school? Your church? Your family? Are you known for what you say? What do you do?
Dramatize stories about being hearers and doers of God’s Word.

Silence and solitude aren’t easy to practice. Just try to hold on to yourself and to hold on to your words!
  i. Notice what happens when you try being silent together for 20 minutes, an hour, or a day. Try listening and observing more than usual, rather than having your say in everything.
  ii. Be intentional about encouraging the voices that never get heard.

Learn about traditions of an earlier age. Invite a parent or grandparent, a pastor or teacher or mentor who is definitely from an older generation to tell you about a prayer, a devotion or a hymn that had meaning when they were growing up. It might reflect a particular period in church history, or a saint who is honored in a country.
• Find out why it meant so much.
• Re-tell the story in a way that retains its historical meaning and also makes it relevant to today.

STUDY
Enthusiasm that’s not supported by knowledge won’t last. It takes time to learn.
• Take pictures with a camera of the things in Nature that inspire you, and find a way to share with others what they mean to you.
• How can this experience be a way to teach and to learn about “what’s there” as well as “what may be missing?”
Name a truth you want to rely on in your faith. How does it show up in the way you live your life – at school, in your family, as you plan your future, as you pursue your dreams?
• What if God, or Thomas Aquinas, or some other great teacher asked you to share a truth that is at the heart of your faith? Where would you begin? How would you communicate your conviction?

If the goal of contemplative study is to “share with others the fruit of what has been contemplated,” it will lead into the depths one’s self and outward toward others.
  a. Knowing is important. Knowing the gospel, knowing the church, knowing the disciplines of a particular field of study. Knowing oneself, knowing others, knowing when what is enough, and when more is necessary or more is excessive. Some knowing is emotional, and involves memory, heart and imagination.
  b. Take turns sharing with others some concrete example of the depth of your knowing.

PREACHING
A preacher has to believe in the message being preached! Truth, justice, love, mercy.
  o These are the heart of the gospel Jesus proclaimed to people of all ages and races and economic classes!
  o Create ways to get people excited about caring and sharing God’s Word, even if you have to use the moves and shouts of a cheerleader to get their attention!

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.” Think about the meaning of Romans 10:15. It doesn’t say “How beautiful are the words...or faces...or accomplishments.” It’s focused on the
way to get from one place to where the good news needs to be proclaimed.
- Take the gospel someplace you've never been. Trace the route you need to go.
- Pay attention to the places your feet have to travel. Who else travels that route? What are their stories, their hopes, their fears?

"To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." That's how the prophet Micah (6:8) described hearers and doers, long before Jesus walked the earth or Dominic preached the gospel.

a. For a week (or month) begin each day expecting to see signs of preaching.
b. Each night give thanks for these experiences.
c. Record these preachings in a journal each day; find a way to share them.

Youth and Young Adults
At The Heart of Dominic's Charism
- Community Helps us Pay Attention
- Prayer Is About Staying Connected
- Study...Who Knows Where It Can Lead?
- Preaching Takes Imagination, Simplicity and Grace
- Catholic and Dominican Means Bringing the Gospel to Life

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