

## HOMILY – MEMORIA OF SAINT DOMINIC

In 1921, on the occasion of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Saint Dominic, Pope Benedict XV issued an encyclical wherein he praised the work of not only the saint whom we honor today, but also of the order which this saint founded. In this letter, he noted three qualities that shine forth in the Dominican charism of preaching. Namely: great solidity of doctrine, the fullness of fidelity towards the Apostolic See, and piety towards the Virgin Mother. It is these three qualities that all of us in proclaiming the truths of our faith – whether monk or lay person – should fearlessly take to heart.

Like Saint Dominic, we should never grow weary to learn what the Catholic Church has taught consistently over the last two millennia, so that we may confidently proclaim this truth to the world.

Like Saint Dominic, we should not only have great respect and reverence for the Holy Father – regardless of who the man is that occupies the See of Saint Peter – but we should be tireless in our efforts of defending the Roman Pontiff against those who would attack him and our Holy Mother the Church.

And, like Saint Dominic, we must turn to our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary – whom the Church regards as the Mother of Grace and the Mother of Mercy – for the strength that we need to proclaim and defend the truth. For it was often that Saint Dominic prayed these words, “Make me worthy to praise thee, Sacred Virgin; give me strength against thine enemies.”

Finally, let us pray often the Most Holy Rosary, which the Blessed Virgin Mary entrusted to Saint Dominic and his disciples, and – like them – teach this method of prayer to all peoples for the spreading of the Gospel and for the invoking of her powerful intercession with her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On this day may we especially invoke the intercession of Saint Dominic to guide us and to intercede for us as we strive to overcome the challenges that will test our faith in these days in which we live.

“O light of the Church, teacher of Truth, rose of patience, ivory of chastity. You freely poured forth the waters of wisdom. Preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed.”\*

---

\* From: [http://nashvilledominican.org/charism/st\\_dominic/O\\_Lumen](http://nashvilledominican.org/charism/st_dominic/O_Lumen). Not long after Saint Dominic’s death, these words were written by Constantine of Orvieto as an antiphon. The antiphon likely began to be recited or sung at the conclusion of Compline after Dominic was canonized.