

## Reflection Saturday Week 18 – St Dominic 2020

### St Dominic (1170 - 1221)

St Dominic was born in Castile in 1170 and became a canon of the cathedral of Osma. He accompanied his bishop Diego in a mission preaching against the Albigensian heresy which *saw the universe as a struggle between good and evil, in which the physical, tangible world was inherently corrupt, evil, the creation of Satan, and the spiritual universe was the realm of the good God. The soul was continually striving to escape the burdens of the material world.* Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty, and prepared with great diligence for the debates that they held with their opponents. In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and reason. The Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life. The Dominicans made a lasting impression on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history by making a well-thought-out and rational response to the new learning that was appearing as long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more in the Christian West; particularly through St Thomas Aquinas. Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221. In his teaching Dominic wished, along with the psalmist, to *Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.* And like St Paul, Dominic preached what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* Let us be inspired by his wisdom:

- *We must sow the seed, not hoard it.*
- *"Arm yourself with prayer instead of a sword; be clothed with humility instead of fine raiment."*
- *"These, my much-loved ones, are the bequests I leave to you as my sons; have charity among yourselves; hold fast to humility; keep a willing poverty."*
- Upon meeting Francis of Assisi, he said *"You are my companion and must walk with me. For if we hold together no earthly power can withstand us."*

#### **A little Wisdom:**

98-year-old Mother Superior from Ireland was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her last journey comfortable.

They tried giving her some warm milk to drink but she refused it.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen and remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey received as a gift, she poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips.

Mother drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop.

"Mother," the nuns asked with earnest, "please give us some wisdom before you die."

She raised herself up in bed and said, "Don't sell that cow!"