

## Reflection Tuesday Week 18 St Dominic 2023

**St Dominic (1170)** was born in Castile (Spain) and became a canon of Osma cathedral. He accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) on a mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy, which was strong in southern France. While the official missions lived in formality and splendour, Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty, and prepared with great diligence for the debates that they held with their opponents. When the suppression of Albigensianism became particularly savage, Dominic continued to try to preach and persuade.

In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, 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. At a time when Benedictine monasteries had grown into rich institutions, they were seen as revolutionary and even subversive. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans altered the course of intellectual history with well-thought-out and rational responses to the new learning from the re-emergence of Aristotle and other earlier thinkers in the Christian West. Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221.

- A man who governs his passions is master of his world. We must either command them or be enslaved by them. It is better to be a hammer than an anvil.
- We must sow the seed, not hoard it.
- One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, Our Lady will save the world.
- I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.
- I feel a longing and a need to be a Saint. I did not know it was so easy to be one, but now I see that one can be holy and happy too. I feel I simply must be a Saint.