

St. Dominic lived in a time when the world and church were in great turmoil and filled with scandals. He saw that people were hungry to know God. Many had little or poor instruction in the faith and were unable to see God's blessings in the ordinary everyday life they lived.

St. Dominic gathered women and men in 1206, in Prouihle, France, founding the first Dominican monastery. The nuns, lay men and women and the friars found it a place of refreshment with its foundation in prayer, study, community and the ministry of the holy preaching.

Can They Help Us Reach Out to the World Beyond Caldwell?



prayer
study
mission
community

For more information
www.caldwell.edu
www.catholicdominicansisters.org
www.domlife.org

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The Four Pillars of Dominican Life



What Are the Pillars of Dominican Life?

Lay men and women throughout the world live the pillars of Dominican Life as well as the nuns, friars and sisters. The followers of Dominic in the Order of Preachers value prayer, study, community and service to the mission of the Gospel.

Most people experience the pillars through programs, schools, colleges and universities founded or staffed by members of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans.

Caldwell College was founded by the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell in 1939. The pillars are a way to carry on the search for Truth and to live authentically in this place of higher learning.

Prayer

prayer

CONTEMPLATION

At the heart of Dominican Life is prayer. While we are called "to share the fruits of our contemplation" private prayer has traditionally found its counterpart in common prayer, especially the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist. It is from our prayer that all life and ministry flow.

Dominican spirituality recognizes that each person is unique and has a special relationship with God. Shaped by our own personality and giftedness, meditation and contemplation will take different forms for each person.

community

Study

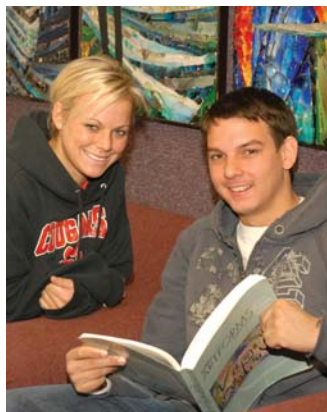
SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Dominic said, "Always study!" The one thing that is never looked upon as a luxury are the books of a Dominican.

Dominicans believe that God's revelation takes place in all of life. To study is to find God. Dominicans especially study the Word of God. Common study was fostered from the beginning of the Order.

In the search for truth Dominicans try to listen deeply even to the ideas and people with whom they disagree. All have a kernel of truth. Study requires deep listening that we might find that Truth. Deep listening requires that we take time to allow the earth and all the happenings around us to teach us our place on this planet.

Today media and technology make study possible through the web, podcast, video and dvd.



Community

COMMON LIFE

We do not learn to walk alone, we do not learn to pray alone, we cannot fully know the mystery of God in isolation. We need each other. Community challenges us with interdependence and diversity. This life in common opens us up to others and calls us to grapple with differences. From the beginning in 1206, Dominican life has not been about uniformity but a celebration of unity in diversity. It raises the questions: What is the common good? How do we make room for others and their needs?

Mission

mission

MINISTRY

Prayer, study, and community give us the confidence and direction necessary to be sent forth in service. No one is given the gift of God's presence for themselves alone. The education we are given at Caldwell impels us outward in mission to the world.

Dominic recognized that we show God to others by how we are and act as persons. Dominicans call that preaching. The preaching is profoundly who we are as persons and who we become by the way we serve others.

How Can These Pillars Help Us Reach Out to the World?

We can do more together than we can alone. God's unique presence in each person is gift for all. It must be recognized, celebrated, fostered, and cherished. Our lives are meant to be a blessing to others and to the world.

We share this planet. What is the Common Good for all who inhabit it? As we share the fruits of our Caldwell education, our struggles to live in community and recognize unity in diversity, and as we strive to live with a lighter touch on the planet's resources, may we begin to show the way for a future full of hope.

