



Couvent de la Haye-aux-Bonshommes  
49240 Avrillé, France

Dear

Enclosed you will find the *Rule of the Dominican Third Order* as well as a few other documents about the Dominican life<sup>1</sup>. You will also be receiving a regularly published newsletter.

As with religious, there is a time of postulancy and a time of novitiate before making profession. This is important to be remembered when you read these texts; the postulancy and novitiate provide the time to study and put into practice the Constitutions little by little. It is not a matter of doing everything perfectly all at once from the beginning. You have, as it were, a time of apprenticeship. Down through the centuries thousands of Dominican tertiaries have been sanctified by practising the Rule; today, like yesterday, with the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ it is possible to do the same by following the Constitutions which have been adapted to our times, and which permit legitimate dispensations in certain cases.

Generally speaking, the course of procedure is the following:

-Upon reception of this letter you will start to get a better idea of what the Third Order entails. Read the information and try to put into practice some of the obligations of the Rule. Send us any and all questions you may have, and let us know how things are going. If after a certain time of reflection and prayer, you desire to become a postulant, fill out the application form and send it to us *along with a letter of recommendation from a priest*.

-Once we receive your request to enter the Order, you become officially a "Postulant". During the time of postulancy, you will continue to learn more about the Order, and progressively put into practice the obligations of the Constitutions. At least every three months or so, it will be necessary to inform us by letter (or e-mail) of your progress and difficulties, so that we (and you) may be able to make an informed decision about your vocation in the Order, and so that we may look into the possibility of granting dispensations if necessary. After a year or so of postulancy, if there are no obstacles, you become eligible to be received among the Novices. (However, a further time of reflection is also possible.)

-The reception into the novitiate consists in a ceremony where you receive the habit and your religious name. If we are not able to come, this ceremony may be performed by a priest to whom we have delegated the power to do so. The time of novitiate is variable, and terminates when the Novice makes profession in the Order.

More complete information will be given as it is needed. Again, you may write to us with any questions. Unfortunately, the large distance prevents us from visiting our tertiaries as much as we would like, but we will keep you informed of any voyages that may give us the possibility to meet up with you. We can also put you in contact with other tertiaries living in your area, as the case may be.

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<sup>1</sup> There is no charge for the booklet, but you may send a donation to cover the cost, if you wish. If you decide not to pursue your interest in the Third Order, please send us back the book, because we have a limited number of them.

The Third Order of St. Dominic has a true missionary vocation. It can and must be, in Traditionalist circles, a center of generous apostles burning with zeal for the salvation of souls. Although this can mean an “apostolate” properly speaking, let us not forget that this ideal is achieved first and foremost by leading an exemplary life in the parish, family, school and/or workplace where Providence has placed us. In this way our tertiaries will truly be the leaven which sanctifies the world around them.

We confide this Rule which you are going to read and meditate to Our Lady of the Rosary. May the meditation of the life, death and glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten you as to the goal of the Third Order of Penance of St. Dominic, which is to form perfect imitators of the Incarnate Word of God.

With my prayers and blessing,

IN MARIA,  
Father Angelico O.P.

# The Third Order of Penance of Saint Dominic

## Application form for postulants

photograph

**Last name :**

**First name :**

**Complete address :**

**Telephone** (and fax, cell phone, and email address if you have them) :

Date (and place) of **birth** :

Date (and place) of **Baptism** :

**Family situation** :

Married (date and place) :

Single :

Other :

**Profession** :

**First Communion** – (Date and place) :

**Confirmation** – (Date and place) :

Date and place of your **parents' marriage** :

Father's first and last name :

Mother's first and last name :

**I desire to enter the Third Order of Penance of Saint Dominic of the Dominicans of Avrillé.**

**I have read the Constitutions.**

**Place :**

**Date :**

**Signature :**

Please give or send to :  
The Father Director of the Third Order  
Couvent de la Haye-aux-Bonshommes  
49240 Avrillé, France

**(saintdominique@gmail.com)**