



The Most Holy Name of Jesus Western Lay Dominican Province

+Friday, August 1, 2025
St. Alphonsus Ligouri

Dear LPC Representatives, observers, priors and prioresses, and friends of St. Dominic:

THE LAY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. The 2025 LPC is completed. It was a good meeting, with lots of prayer, fellowship, discussion and decisions made. I will try and summarize the 2025 LPC for your records. First, let me thank Our Lord for the His presence on the Altar at the LPC, and in the hearts and minds of all attendees, as well as the prayers and devotion expressed in prayer for his Holy Mother, and our holy father in faith, St. Dominic.

There were 55 attendees, with Lay Provincial Council Representatives (“LPC Reps”), Observers and the LPC executive council (“LPC EC”) members in attendance! The theme of this year’s LPC was “Sacred Tradition,” by which the Church passes on the Faith, in addition to Holy Scripture. As St. Paul said, “I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them to you.” [1 Corinthians 11:2](#). And, also, St. Paul noted to the Brethren, “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.” [1 Thessalonians 2:15](#). It was Christ Himself and St. Paul in his letters, noted our faith in Christ is proved in works; and it is notable that the Third Order members of the Order of Preachers are key to maintaining the traditions handed down by our fathers in Faith.

PAT BROWN. As a side note, I wanted to take the time to notify you that Dr. Pat Brown, OP, PhD, prioress of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Chapter in Las Vegas passed away and has gone before us in the sign of Faith in Christ. I visited with Pat many times on the phone over the last year, she was a delightful and well organized. Please pray for the repose of her soul and pray the Office of the Dead. She will be included in the Necrology of her chapter online at opwestlaity.org. *

SACRED TRADITION and THE TRADITION OF THE ORDER. The LPC theme focused on the Chapter and personal apostolates, that Our Lord calls us to get to know Him, and we can know Him by obeying His commandments. [1 John 2:3](#). To obey Him is to live in Faith: to do the works of Faith. “So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” [James 2: 17](#). As St. Clement of Alexandria said, that life’s purpose, its ultimate end, is to truly become similar to God. St. Peter notes that we, as Catholics, can be “partakers of the divine nature[;]” by living in virtue, knowledge, and ultimately love. See, [2 Peter 1](#). In other words, “On the path to perfection, [St.] Clement thus attaches as much importance to the moral requisite as he gives to the intellectual. The two go hand in hand, *for it is impossible to know without living and impossible to live without knowing.*” See, Church Fathers, Pope Benedict XVI, p. 29 (Ignatius) (Italics here) [LINK](#). Another way to say it, the Third Order members learn the knowledge through study and contemplation; yet living the Chapter’s and the personal apostolate is integral to the faith life.

THE APOSTOLATE OF PREACHING. As lay members of the *Order of Preachers*, one of the pillars IS to preach—a key to the life of the Third Order. The friars preach at Holy Mass, at retreats, and elsewhere as key to Gospel and spreading the Word of God; yet the Third Order members are key as well, not at Holy Mass or elsewhere out of order, yet the call to holiness is clear in our personal lives as well as Chapter apostolates. For example, Mr. Robert Curtis, OP, a member of the Mary, Mother of Truth Chapter of Mesa, Arizona, has written several books about the lay people and the Dominican Order, one of which is called, “*From the Devotional to Preaching, the Lay Dominicans Preaching in the 21 Century*”, Barnes & Noble Press (2023) [LINK](#). In the book, Mr. Curtis clarifies methods, delivery, and opportunities for lay preaching. Mr. Curtis also provides several anecdotes of preaching within the Church. While each lay Dominican is called to preach within reason and order as set down by Holy Scripture, canon law, and under authority of the Order, it is important for members of the Chapter to be prepared in accord with the four Pillars in the formation process. With permission, here is a link to Chapters Seven, Eight, and Nine of Mr. Curtis’ book. [LINK](#). (I encourage you to check out Mr. Curtis’s books, which can be accessed at Barnes & Noble website. [LINK](#)).

At the 2025 LPC, Matt Nelson, prior of the Sts. Catherine & Vincent Chapter, of Yuba City, California, gave a presentation on the many aspects and apostolates of his Chapter, inclusive of *Fraternas* and *St. Paul’s Street Evangelization*, both with a mission to carry the Gospel to the world. His Chapter is deeply involved in spreading the word of God for which I am deeply thankful as an example to others. Matt tells his story about his Chapter’s apostolates at this [LINK](#). It is a good read.

FORMATION COMMISSION. The LPC also covered the work of the Formation Commission. The Commission has been working on the first-year formation, with the goal of completing the second year at the 2025 LPC. I am thankful for their work to date, as well as the LPC, as it renewed their work to report back in 2026.

PARTICULAR DIRECTORY COMMISSION. The LPC also discussed the Particular Directory Commission, as was passed by the Chapters effective March 1st of this year. Upon consideration, the P.D. will need additional review and amendment; so the LPC sent the document back to the Commission. The current P.D. as approved by the Chapters on March 1, 2025 can be viewed [HERE](#). The feedback from the Chapters can be viewed [HERE](#) (at bottom of page).

The LPC approved an additional time to review and make recommendations to the P.D. The feedback earlier received will be used to edit the P.D., and if your Chapter wants to give further input, here are the deadlines:

1. Deadline September 30, 2025: Chapter submits its additional feed back to the P.D. Commission via email, to John Keenan, john@keenan.org. It will be forwarded to the Commission.
2. Deadline November 1, 2025: The P.D. Commission reviews P.D. draft and submits its final draft to the Chapters.
3. Deadline November February 1, 2026: The Chapters have considered the draft P.D., either approved or disapproved the draft, and communicated their Chapter’s decision to the LPC Secretary, Alejandra Barajas, at abarajas@gmail.com.

ASSESSMENT and FUNDRAISING. The Lay Provincial Council has the authority to approve the annual budget of the LPC and the amount of assessment on each professed member of each Chapter. Due to increased costs holding the LPC, including accommodations, food, and travel, the assessment was increased from \$60 per person to \$80 per person commencing in 2026. The LPC also gave the authority to the LPC president to remit or lessen the assessment amount on a reasonable basis upon a Chapter's application.

Many of the LPC Representatives noted the LPC's ability to fundraise to help ease any expense. This year, the LPC applied with, and submitted to, the IRS to be recognized as a tax-exempt organization. The application is being processed, and no word has been received as to the status of the application. I expect to receive word from the IRS within the next 60 days. Within the law, the donor is provided a tax deduction for a donation to the LPC.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your attendance, hard work, and effort at this year's Lay Provincial Council. It meant a lot and I thank you!

Have a blessed remainder of your summer, and enjoy the solemn Feast of St. Dominic, this coming August 8, 2025.

Sincerely in faith and peace,

John
John Keenan
LPC President

*** To submit the Necrology of your Chapter, please submit the following information to Alejandra Barajas, LPC Secretary, and provincial Webmaster: Name, city of residence, state, Chapter name, year of profession and date of death. Alejandra's email is abarajas174@gmail.com.**