

## ACTIVITY MASTER #TE12

# Religious Orders

## SOME MAJOR RELIGIOUS ORDERS

### The Benedictines (OSB)

Founder: St. Benedict

Women: St. Scholastica

The Order of St. Benedict was founded around A.D. 530.

St. Benedict reformed the monastic movement. He wrote a rule to tell monks and nuns how to live. The rule stressed the need for both prayer and work. His monasteries provided education, the preservation of Scripture, liturgical prayer and music, hospitality for pilgrims, and help for the poor and ill. Benedict died around 547.

### The Franciscans (OSF)

Founder: St. Francis

Women: St. Clare

The Franciscan Rule was approved in A.D. 1209.

There are three Franciscan Orders: The First Order: Priests and Brothers; The Second Order: Cloistered Nuns (The Poor Clares); The Third Order: Non-cloistered Sisters and Laity. Francis saw all creation as holy. He called the Church away from amassing riches to embracing poverty and simplicity. He died in 1226.

### The Dominicans (OP)

Founder: St. Dominic

Founded the Order of Preachers in 1215 to send preachers out to speak against the heresies that had arisen to threaten the Church. Dominic and Francis lived at the same time and knew each other. Dominic stressed the need for education as a way to combat false teaching. He is also known for his great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dominic died in 1221.

There are many other Religious Orders in the Church, but these three represent thousands of men and women who have chosen to follow Christ by living in a religious community. There are Benedictine monasteries of men and convents of women all over the world. They continue to study, write, pray, and celebrate liturgy following the Rule of St. Benedict. Franciscan Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Lay Members, and Poor Clare Nuns continue to serve the poor while living among the poor all over the world. Dominican Priests, Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Members preach the Gospel and educate people of all ages in every land.

Read about the following young people and decide which religious order they might want to join. Explain why.

Greg wants to do missionary work with very poor people.

**Religious Order**

**Reason**

Tanya loves reading Scripture and participating in the liturgy.

Eileen wants to be a Sister and a teacher.

Jack thinks he'd like to live in a monastery where he could study and pray.