St. Dominic
The Story of a Preaching Friar

Donald J. Goergen, OP; Foreword by Timothy Radcliffe, OP

The Order of Preachers, the Dominicans, celebrate the 800th anniversary of their founding in 2016. This book revisits the life of their founder, Dominic, in light of the most recent historical research. At the same time it attempts to bring the saint to life, not in a hagiographical way but as someone who has contemporary appeal. Dominic was a man of real flesh and blood, with real challenges and struggles. Portraits of him can only approximate who he was, but he comes through to today’s world as an itinerant contemplative for whom preaching was a passion and his first love, someone responsive to the ways in which providence worked in his life.

There are many unanswered questions in the life of Dominic and many that will always remain unanswered. The closer, however, we sift through the sources, the more we see a man who was a servant of God but also a servant of preaching. He liked to style himself as the humble servant of preaching. And with preaching being in the forefront of concerns in the life of the church, Saint Dominic is truly a saint for our times.

Donald Goergen is a Dominican priest, teacher, and author. He has published ten books, the most recent being Fire of Love: Encountering the Holy Spirit (Paulist Press), as well as many articles. He has served as Provincial for the St. Albert the Great Province of the Dominicans, and more recently as the prior of their formation community, St. Dominic Priory in Saint Louis. The holder of a PhD (which he earned with a dissertation on Teilhard de Chardin), he currently teaches systematic philosophy at the Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO, where he lives.

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