

Blessed Mary, Mother of Dominic, Community of Cedaredge

Compiled by Cheryl A. Riley, OP, August 30, 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great honor I am here to recap the latest events of our newest community in Cedaredge. Cedaredge is a town of about 2,000 people at the southern base of the Grand Mesa on the western slope of Colorado. As you may remember, due to their remote location and extreme distance from the closest Lay Dominican Chapters, they were permitted to undergo formation using Skype as their means of communication with both their Moderator Pro Tem and Formation Director. They completed their Initiate Formation one year ago and were received into the order on October 21, 2017.

Since January 2017, the group has met twice per month on the first and third Sundays. On the first Sunday of the month they have their “informal” community meeting with their Formation Director via Skype. Their formal Skype meeting occurs on the third Sunday of the month. Their Moderator Pro Tem, Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP, and their Formation Director, Cate P. Orive, OP, both join the meeting via Skype. Cate was welcomed to the group in December, 2017, and lives in Denver, CO and Dr. Mahfood lives in St. Louis, MO. Both meetings follow the same outline: pray the Liturgy of Hours, handle small business, discuss the highlights of their study book, and pray the rosary. For their official formation time, they meet for an additional 30-60 minutes after their formal meeting.

Over the last year, they have put what they have learned into action. Instead of using an online version of the Divine Office, they pray using the 4-volume set. They rotate the prayer leader duties from one meeting to the next, so each member has the opportunity to practice writing reflections. They’ve also been introduced to the ancient prayer form, *Lectio Divina*, during a virtual retreat with the St. Louis Chapter of Lay Dominicans, also conducted via Skype. In their studies, they’ve read and studied two books, namely *Adventures in the Father’s Joy* by Fr. Lawrence Tucker, SOLT, and *History of the Eucharist*, by Roger Skrenes, and interviewed both of the authors. They’ve also begun meeting as a group monthly with their pastor, Father Albeiro Herrera-Ciro, for spiritual direction. This has proved quite fruitful for both their group and parish. As part of the Amazing Parish and Forming Intentional Disciples programs launched in their diocese, the group has been active in helping their parish to meet the goals set by their pastor. *Lectio Divina* has been integrated into religious education classes for both youth and adults, and the Liturgy of the Hours has been incorporated into Word and Communion Services.

The community started with ten members in January, 2017, but since February, 2018, they have had three members discern out of the group. This caused a change in the organization of the group, and the remaining members agreed unanimously that having nominations and democratically elected “acting positions” would allow for the group to continue to move forward. In each of the elected positions, servant leadership is the model. The community currently has a Community Coordinator who acts as the liaison for external communications, a

Treasurer to account for all monetary transactions, and a Secretary/Archivist who keeps meeting minutes and archives all historical events. The group is adjusting well to the changes, has a cohesive membership, and is ready to move ahead to Candidacy II. The members are grateful for the experience thus far and eager to continue their journey in the Dominican world by making their temporary professions as Lay Dominicans in September, 2018, at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, Colorado, while on retreat with the Denver Chapter. They will also be electing their council, their delegate, and alternate while on retreat.

Let's keep them in our prayers as they move forward into Candidacy II. The next three years are sure to be exciting for them as they come closer to God and walk the path with St. Dominic.