

# Lay Dominican Inquiry Formation *Meeting Nine*

## *POEMS OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA*

### CONSUMED IN GRACE

I first saw God when I was a child, six years of age.  
the cheeks of the sun were pale before Him,  
and the earth acted as a shy  
girl, like me.

Divine light entered my heart from His love  
that did never fully wane,

though indeed, dear, I can understand how a  
person's  
faith can at time flicker,

for what is the mind to do  
with something that becomes the mind's ruin:  
a God that consumes us  
in His grace.

I have seen what you want;  
it is there,

a Beloved of infinite  
tenderness.

### CONSECRATED

All has been consecrated.  
The creatures in the forest know this,

The earth does, the seas do, the clouds know  
as does the heart full of  
love.

Strange a priest would rob us of this  
knowledge

and then empower himself  
with the ability

to make holy what  
already was

### THE SANCTUARY

It could be said that God's foot is so vast  
That this entire earth is but a  
field on His  
toe,

and all the forests in this world  
came from the same root of just  
a single hair  
of His.

What then is not a sanctuary?  
Where can I not kneel  
and pray at a shrine  
made holy by His  
presence?

### ETERNAL TRINITY

Eternal Trinity,  
Godhead,  
mystery deep as the sea,  
you could give me no greater gift  
than the gift of  
yourself.

For you are a fire ever burning and never consumed,  
which itself consumes all the selfish love  
that fills my being.

Yes, you are a fire that takes away the coldness,  
illuminates the mind with its light,  
and causes me to know your  
truth.

And I know that  
you are beauty and wisdom itself.

The food of angels,  
you gave yourself to man  
in the fire of your  
love.

## PRAYER OF ST CATHERINE

I see that you have endowed your vicar  
by nature  
with a fearless heart;  
so I humbly, imploringly beg you  
to pour the light beyond nature  
into the eye of his understanding.  
For unless this light,  
acquired through pure affection for virtue,  
is joined with it,  
a heart such as his tends to be proud.

Today again let every selfish love be cut away  
from those enemies of yours  
and from the vicar  
and from us all,  
so that we may be able to forgive those enemies  
when you bend their hardness.

For them, that they may humble themselves  
and obey this lord of ours,  
I offer you my life  
from this moment  
and for whenever you wish me to lay it down  
for your glory.

## REST IN PRAYER

The sun hears the fields talking about effort  
and the sun  
smiles,  
and whispers to  
me,  
“Why don't the fields just rest, for  
I am willing to do everything  
to help them  
grow?”  
Rest, my dears, in  
prayer.

### Reading List

Dominicana  
Ch 8 (Notable Dominicans)  
Ch 9 (Art and Iconography)

Sacred Scripture  
Hebrews  
2 Timothy  
Jude  
John 1 - 7

Catechism of the Catholic Church  
Paragraphs 2052 - 2345

**DOMINICAN ART**



Selection of the Altar of Recanati polyptch (1508) by Lorenzo Lotto featuring St Catherine of Sienna.



St Dominic  
by Carlo Crivelli (1476)



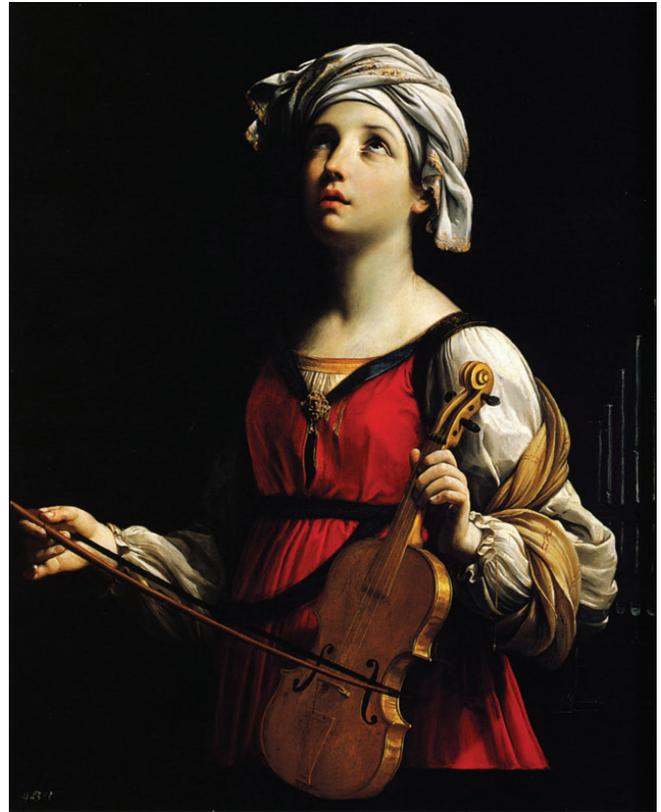
St Peter Martyr  
by Fra Angelico (1440)



St Thomas Aquinas  
by Fra Angelico (1440)



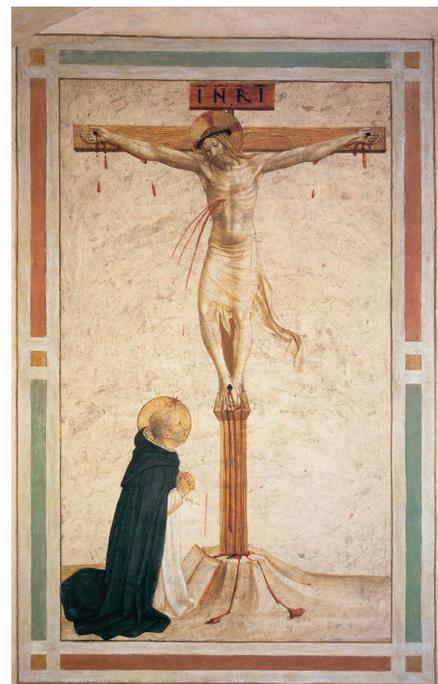
The Meeting of St Francis and St Dominic by Fra Angelico (1429)



St Cecilia by Guido Reni (1606)



Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb by Fra Angelico (1442)



Crucifixion with St Dominic by Fra Angelico (1442)



The Mocking of Christ  
by Fra Angelico (1435)



Institution of the Eucharist  
by Fra Angelico (1442)

**Further Information Online**

[www.aug.edu/augusta/iconography/dominic.html](http://www.aug.edu/augusta/iconography/dominic.html)

[www.op-stjoseph.org/blog/fra\\_angelico/](http://www.op-stjoseph.org/blog/fra_angelico/)

[www.opne.org/art.htm](http://www.opne.org/art.htm)

[www.poetseers.org/spiritual\\_and\\_devotional\\_poets/christian/cat/](http://www.poetseers.org/spiritual_and_devotional_poets/christian/cat/)

**Dominicana: A Guidebook for Inquirers**

Ch. 8 (Notable Dominicans)

Ch. 9 (Art and Iconography)

Write a one page summary of these chapters.