

Focus on Preaching...

The International Commission on Preaching TIMELINE:

Where did the Commission come from?

General Chapter of Bologna (1998)

The General Chapter of Bologna (1998) made the following petition:

We petition the Master of the Order to constitute a commission of highly competent theologian brothers and sisters of the Order, whose task will be to examine the question of the charism of preaching for men and women of the Order and its relation to ordained ministry, and to advance the theological and ecclesiological dimensions of the question. In addition, other related issues of the priestly and prophetic roles ought to be explored.

First Commission Established (2000)

A first commission was established by Timothy Radcliffe in 2000 called the Dominican International Commission on Preaching of the Non-Ordained. Meeting in March 2000 amidst challenges related to diversity of languages, methods of ongoing communication, and diverse views of their task, the Commission drafted a five-point document entitled *The Dominican Charism of Preaching: An Inquiry* completed in May 2001.

An Inquiry (May 2001)

Clarifying the role of the Commission, Timothy said, “the mandate was to describe the frontiers of preaching for the Order today and that the group might produce a document to be submitted to the Dominican Curia or an edited book on this topic.”

Timothy further spoke to the importance of our charism and to the work of the commission:

“For many Dominicans, the discovery that we all have the authority to preach has been exciting and liberating. And the restriction of preaching after the gospel during the Eucharist is deeply painful for many of our sisters and laity. It is experienced as a negation of your full identity as preachers...”

What happened to the work of the Commission?

Chapter of Providence (2001)

The interim report, *The Dominican Charism of Preaching: An Inquiry*, was submitted to the Chapter of Providence (2001). While the report was reviewed at the Chapter, **“circumstances at the time prevented a full discussion of the issue.”**

In the following months, the DLC leadership wrote to Br. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, the newly elected Master of the Order, asking for follow-through with the commission document. Carlos responded that he would do everything possible to continue the reflection.

Survey to Order (May 2003)

In May 2003, a letter and survey was sent to the brothers and sisters of the Order from Chrys McVey, Assistant for Apostolic Life, and Wojciech Giertych, Assistant

What was the order’s next step?

Chapter of Krakow (2004)

The Chapter of Krakow (2004) studied the report submitted by the Commission on Preaching to the Providence Chapter. Krakow responded with the following:

We acknowledge the work of the commission ...

We support the ongoing study ...for apostolic life and intellectual life...

We encourage responses to this study...

We recommend focusing on the following two questions for the future:

Is collaborative preaching by Dominican women and men, lay and ordained, essential to our witness to the Gospel?

How does profession in the Order of Preachers imply a commission to preach as a participation in the essential mission of the Order?

We recommend that before the next chapter a small meeting of theologians, historians, pastors, and canonists be held to evaluate responses, continue the reflection, and propose future steps to be taken. 5

What came of the Commission?

New Commission appointed (2006)

Fr. Carlos appointed Dominican theologians and preachers to form a **second international “Preaching Commission of the Order”**. **Current Commission** members are: Mary Catherine Hilker, M. Viviana Abllarin, Blanca Guerrero Gomez, Duncan MacLaren, Allan White, Sidbe Sempore, Daniel Cadrin, Felecisimo Martinez Diez, Marcio Couto, Chrys McVey and Petronille Kayiba. The Commission met February 2007. Using for A Report on Work in Progress (February **their foundation David Rocks’ report** from the previous survey, the Commission published a letter to all of the brothers and sisters of the Order entitled, A Report on Work in Progress.

What are our next steps?

In their report, the Commission stated, “our most basic challenge today is rediscovering that preaching is at the heart of our vocation and identity.