

## Matthew 11v25-30

At that time Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

## Homily

Hiding these things from the learned and the clever. We are members of the Order of Preachers but we don't preach because we are learned or clever. Being clever is not the key to a good homily. It also doesn't matter whether people call you a learned doctor or how many letters you have after your name. It's not about **what** we know.

It's about **Who** we know. No one knows the Father except those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Studying and learning are good things, but a relationship with God the Son, Jesus, is how we know the Father and how we can preach about the Father and His Word. Coming to Jesus and spending time with Him enables us to get to know Him personally and consequently to know the Father. So let's devote ourselves to prayer, in order to grow closer to Him.

When we study we do so in the presence of Jesus.

Christianity is a relational religion, based on the virtue of love. Our fraternity is an extension of that. We come to know Christ through knowing one another. Dominicans don't exist in isolation but in communities. Here is where we strengthen our bond with Christ, through our love for one another.

If it did depend on us being learned and clever then our preaching would be stressful because it would have depended on our own power. Instead, however, it depends on coming to Jesus, and so it is restful and we find rest for our souls. Spending time in prayer and silence is restful for our souls.

Because, yes, His yoke is easy. Spending time in prayer and silence, in contemplation and coming close to Jesus is easy on our souls. It is good for the mind, the heart and the will to be in prayer and in silent contemplation of the person of God.

Embracing humility as a child of God saves me from distress.

Today, we celebrate the next stage in the journey of Christina as she makes her first profession as a member of the Order of Preachers. Her formation has involved study, but she's not had to pass any exams to get this far. Instead she has journeyed in faith and remained close to Jesus. She has prayed and discerned her intention in the light of His Word. She has journeyed in fellowship with the rest of our fraternity and she has been an active preacher of the Word. These are the things that have qualified her to make her temporary profession.

Prayer, study, community and apostolate are the pillars of our life in the Order of Preachers. These are the four things that have qualified Christina to make her profession today.