The mission of Dominican Young Adults USA is to guide the formation of young adults interested in learning more about the Dominican Order and St. Dominic’s life, relying on the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of Dominicans of all ages and dependent on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are young adults who are attracted by Jesus and His message and by the way of living out the Gospel preached by Saint Dominic.

The following pages are meant to be an informal and informative guide to help you. Please reach out to us if we can be of assistance.

In Dominic and Catherine,

*Sister Gina Fleming, Director of Dominican Youth Movement USA*
*Francesca Pisano, National Coordinator of Dominican Young Adults*
*Michelle Lithgow, Vice President for Dominican Mission*
*Elizabeth Meittinis, Coordinator for Mission*
*Sean Puzzo, Coordinator for the Charism*
*Krystine Abberton, Coordinator for Stewardship*
Starting a Dominican Young Adults chapter is easy as 1-2-3!

1. Grab a friend or two and form a group with a mentor (member of Dominican Order)
2. Fill out a chapter application (insert link here), sign your commitment statement (insert link here), and pay dues ($4 National, $1 International)
3. Have fun!

Owning Your DYAUSA Group

Each chapter of DYA USA provides a different response to the needs of its location. Organized by young adults, with the help of experienced campus ministers, chaplains, religious, and other members of the Dominican Family, our basis is the four pillars of the Dominican Life: community, prayer, study, and mission. Through prayer and reflection, the chapter searches to continue formation of the individual Dominican. Though unique in their walks of faith, these chapters seek the same goal through their Dominican lives: to live for Jesus Christ. Holding to the pillars, the message of Dominic has found a home within this generation in the United States of America.

Once you have started your chapter you have the opportunity to make the chapter your own. While we are all part of the larger Dominican Young Adults USA organization we all from many different locations and walks of life. Chapters should find things that work for their local customs and culture - it's what makes DYA so unique!

Governance

Each Chapter must have:

1. A young adult chairperson whose role it is to organize the meeting and call the members together.
2. A secretary/finance person whose role it is to take the minutes of the meeting and distribute them to each member once completed, and to collect the dues on a yearly basis and send them into the Coordinator for Stewardship on the National Board
3. An adult mentor (a religious sister/friar, an associate member, or lay Dominican) who can be a resource to the chapter in things Dominican or other.
4. Active membership of two or more participants.

N.B. - Dominican Young Adults understands that access to a member of the Dominican Family may be difficult. In this instance chapters may be established with a with a lay mentor and a member of the Dominican Order who will serve in an advisory capacity to the chapter.

Beyond these positions - governance of your Dominican Young Adults chapter is up to you. If you would like to have additional positions it's all up to you!
DYA Meetings

Here is where the fun begins - how and when you meet is all up to you. Some groups have meet weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or something even something else! We ask that each chapter meet at least four times per year. Below is a structure that one chapter found beneficial:

A. Formation
   i. Opening
      1. Greetings
      2. Recap of previous week
      3. Prayer
      4. Attendance
   ii. Topic
   iii. Saint
   iv. Scripture and Faith Sharing
   v. Other
b. Activities

Formation Topics

Here is a short list of topics that can be used in the formation of your chapter.

• Dominican Order
• Dominican Pillars
• Dominican Mottos
• Dominican Symbols
• Dominican Life
• Dominican Saints
Application for DYA USA Local Chapter

Please complete and scan this form in and send to the Vice President for Dominican Mission at vpdominicanmission@gmail.com.

DYA Chapter Name

DYA Young Adult Chair __________________________ Email __________________________
Contact Person __________________________ Email __________________________
DYA Mentor __________________________ Email __________________________

Members

Member’s Email

If you need more room for members, kindly duplicate this form and fill out the member section as needed. Each member should have a signed commitment statement to DYA USA and have paid dues for 1 year. Commitment statements and dues ($5.00 p/p) should be sent to Sr. Gina Fleming, OP at the address below.

Please provide a short description of your group

How often will you meet? (Check One) Weekly □ Bi-Weekly □ Monthly □ Other □

What are your chapter’s goals/mission for the year?

Signature of Young Adult Chairperson __________________________
Signature of Mentor __________________________
I, ________________, commit myself to membership in the Dominican Youth Movement USA as a member of Dominican Young Adults U.S.A. for one year. I commit myself to living out the four pillars of Dominican life: prayer, study, community and mission through:

- personal and communal prayer in order to deepen my relationship with God,
- studying the Word of God and the Signs of the Times,
- participating in a local community chapter of Dominican Young Adults USA,
- engaging in preaching the Word of God, through service to my local community,
- and to fulfilling all of my responsibilities as a member of Dominican Young Adults USA.

On this day, ___/____/____, I accept my membership in the Dominican Youth Movement and to Dominican Young Adults USA as well as the International Dominican Youth Movement.
Dear Chapters & Potential Chapters,

Let me first introduce myself, my name is Krystine Abberton and I am Coordinator for Stewardship as a member of the Dominican Young Adult’s Leadership Team. One of my responsibilities as the Coordinator of Stewardship is to ensure that chapters are up to date in terms of their membership dues.

In order to be a member in the National Organization it is necessary that as a chapter you contribute dues that amount to $5 per individual member, $4 will be put towards the advancement of the National DYA and $1 will be used in support for the International Dominican Youth Movement. These dues will help support the growth of the current chapters and creation of new chapters and reaching young adults in new places. The spread of the Dominican life and the four pillars is essential and with your support we will be able to reach new and exciting heights. That being said I would appreciate if the dues could be submitted as soon as you are able.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the payment of your dues for the upcoming year you can contact me at dyastewardship@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with all of our chapters and new chapters during the upcoming year.

May the preaching continue with us,
Krystine Abberton