

Among the more noteworthy advances in this movement was the recognition Francis gave to the desire of a lay person to be committed to the monastic life but not being able to actually perform in its sphere. Accordingly lay persons were permitted to live at Franciscan monasteries when practical while continuing their secular service. They were not required to adhere to the full discipline and were identified as "lay brothers."

About 1517 the order divided into three divisions: Conventuals, Observants, and Capuchins. The divisions opened the way for a wider participation and the group en masse was perhaps the most popular order. In England, at a later date, you will find the Franciscans known as the "Grey Friars."

One of the dangers of monasticism is the production of cultic mentalities and this occurred within the Franciscan order with the group known as the Fratricelli. In the days of John XXII and somewhat earlier, this group determined to enforce the poverty vows on themselves and others (especially some who seemed to have forgotten them) and this created a considerable disturbance. Taking the law into their own hands they raided other monasteries and committed various forms of carnage to return the order to poverty. The actions of the body became more a source of terror than reform and they became victims of inquisition and warfare. You will sometimes hear them praised as a reform movement but it was a long cry from that and the leaders seem to have been corrupted people on several lines. There are lessons in all of these things for us, if we will but listen.

#### The Dominicans

Dominic (1170-1221) was a Spanish monk who formed an Order of Preachers (OP) in 1216 whose specific goal was to rewin the Albi, et al back to the faith through the medium of preaching and teaching. They are called the "Black Friars" and went about two by two in the preaching role. The order adopted the rule of the Augustinians and made preaching the central thrust. As might be expected it became a roving order with a charge to seek out errors and refute them. In time it would become the master of the inquisition and produce a large missionary society as well. With a