August 8th: Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest

Gospel text (*Lk* 9:57-62): As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, a man said to him, «I will follow you wherever you go». Jesus said to him, «Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head» (...).

Saint Dominic, priest (1170-1221)

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today we celebrate a saint who made a fundamental contribution to the renewal of the Church of his time: St Dominic, the Founder of the Order of Preachers, also known as Dominican Friars. He always spoke with God and of God. He distinguished himself straight away for his interest in the study of Sacred Scripture and for his love of the poor. The missionary action for those who did not know the light of the Gospel and the work of the re-evangelization of Christian communities became the apostolic goals that Dominic resolved to pursue. It was the Pope who asked Dominic to devote himself to preaching to the Albigensians, a heretical group which upheld a dualistic conception of reality.

Dominic enthusiastically accepted this mission and carried it out with the example of his own poor and austere existence, Gospel preaching and public discussions. He devoted the rest of his life to this mission of preaching the Good News. Many other men then joined Dominic de Guzmán, attracted by the same aspiration.

—Moreover the motto of the Friars Preachers “contemplata aliis tradere” helps us to discover a pastoral yearning in the contemplative study of this truth because of the need to communicate to others the fruit of one's own contemplation.