

Dominican Sites

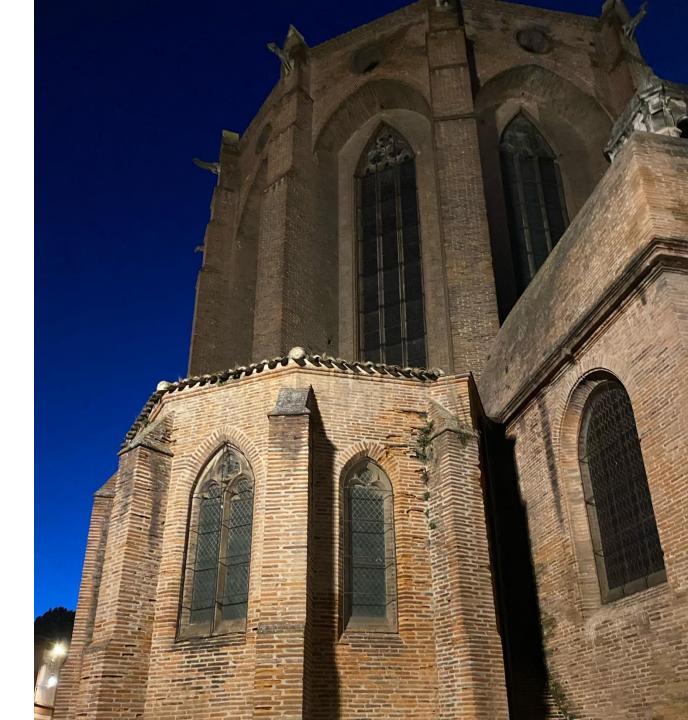
Renewal Leave 2024

St Dominic had significant connections with Toulouse, a city in the southwest of France. In the early 13th century, Dominic was sent to the region to preach to encourage conversions to Christianity through example and debate. St Dominic's approach was preaching, education and a lifestyle of poverty and humility, modelled after the apostles.

St Dominic's work in Toulouse laid the foundation for what would become the Dominican Order, formally established in 1216.

We arrived in Toulouse, France on Monday 26th August to discover both the Church and the convent were closed!















House of St Dominic in the city of Fanjeaux

St Dominic's connection to Fanjeaux, a small village in southern France, is central to his life and the origins of the Dominican Order. Fanjeaux served as Dominic's base for nearly a decade while he was on a mission to combat the spread of the Cathar heresy in the region. His time there was marked by important events and decisions that would ultimately shape the foundation of the Dominican Order.



St Dominic's home was being restored at the time of our visit.









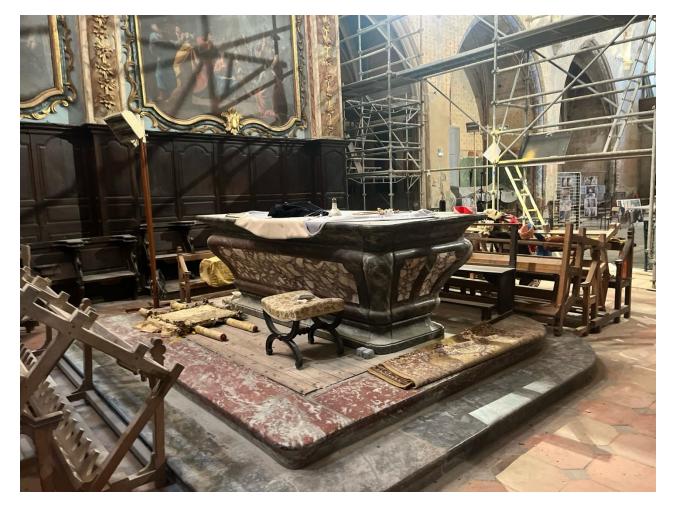
St Dominic's house in Fanjeaux was being renovated – the builders let me into the chapel where he prayed when he lived in Fanjeaux.



Windows in the Chapelat St home in Fanjeaux



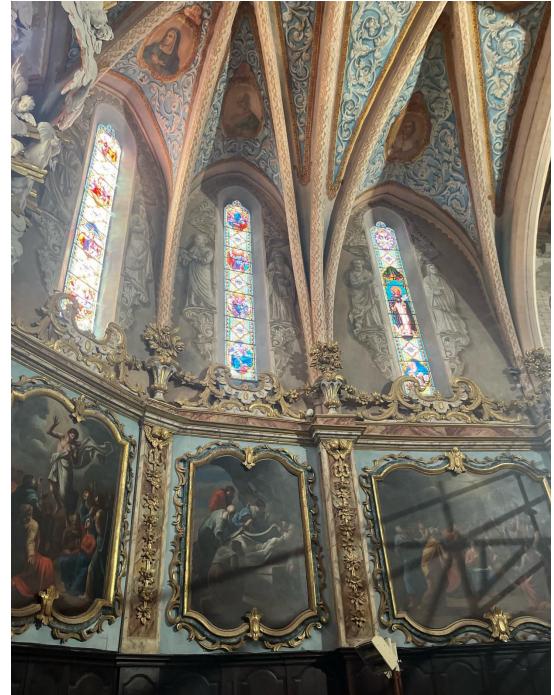






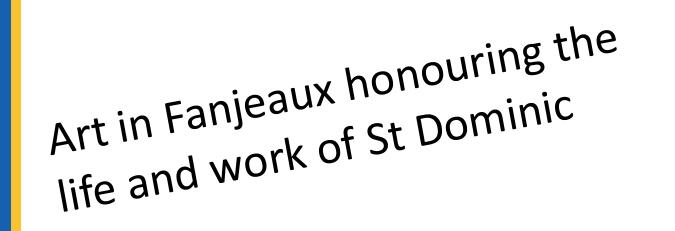
The church in Fanjeaux, often called the **Church of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption**, is a notable place for Dominican pilgrims and those interested in the life of Saint Dominic. It features several elements that commemorate his life and work. It was being restored when we visited!

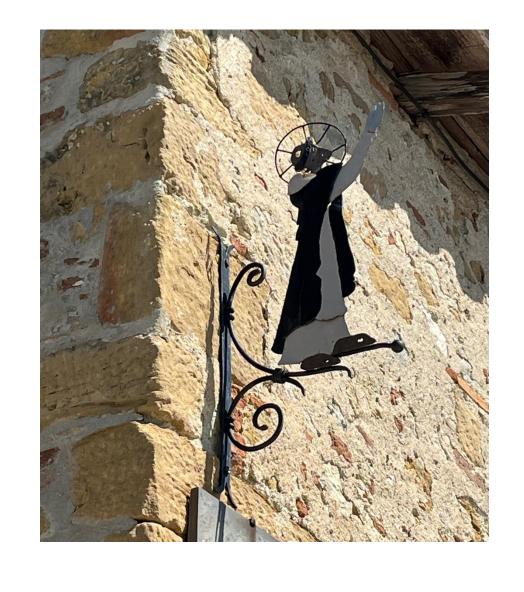




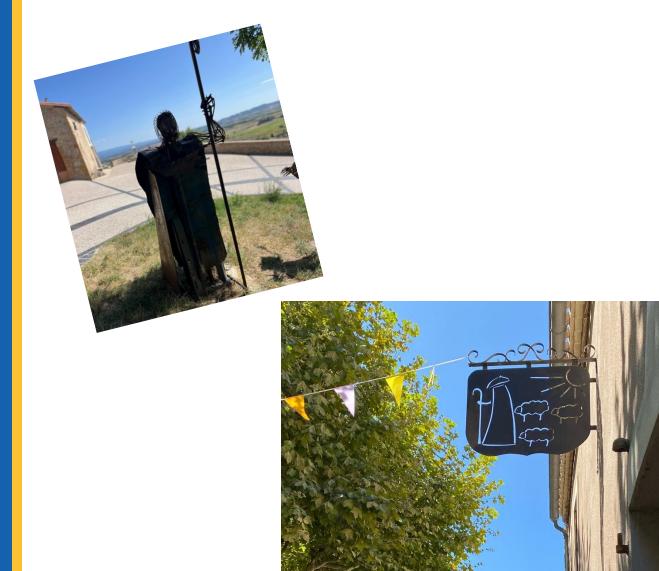


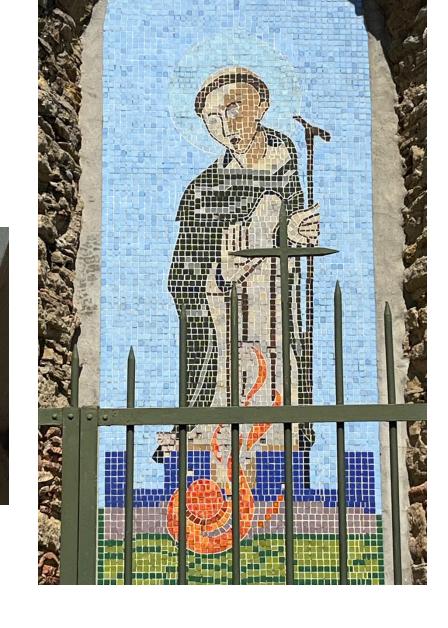




















Santiago de Compostela – Hospitalitas – exhibition that focuses on the world of pilgrims and pilgrimages. The exhibition featured a statue of St Dominic who walked a Camino to Santiago.





The ruins of the Convent of San Domingos in Pontevedra are apart of the convent originally built by the Dominican order in the 14th Century.



Monastery of St. Stephen. The Dominicans and Salamanca

Shortly after founding the Dominican Order, St. Domingo, who was aware of the change taking place in the medieval world, sent his monks to live in cities with a university (Paris, Bologna, Oxford and Salamanca).

The first Dominicans arrived in Salamanca in 1221 and settled in San Juan Blanco Church, by the River Tormes, outside the city walls. In 1256 the river burst its banks and flooded the church and the monastery. Thanks to the intercession of the bishop, they moved to this site.

The current building, which is the result of many vicissitudes and transformations and which was sponsored by Friar Juan Álvarez de Toledo, Dominican and second Dukes Alba's son, was erected in the 16th century. It replaced another Gothic building from the 14th century which had also in turn replaced one of the Romanesque churches of the resettlement, St. Stephen's Church.



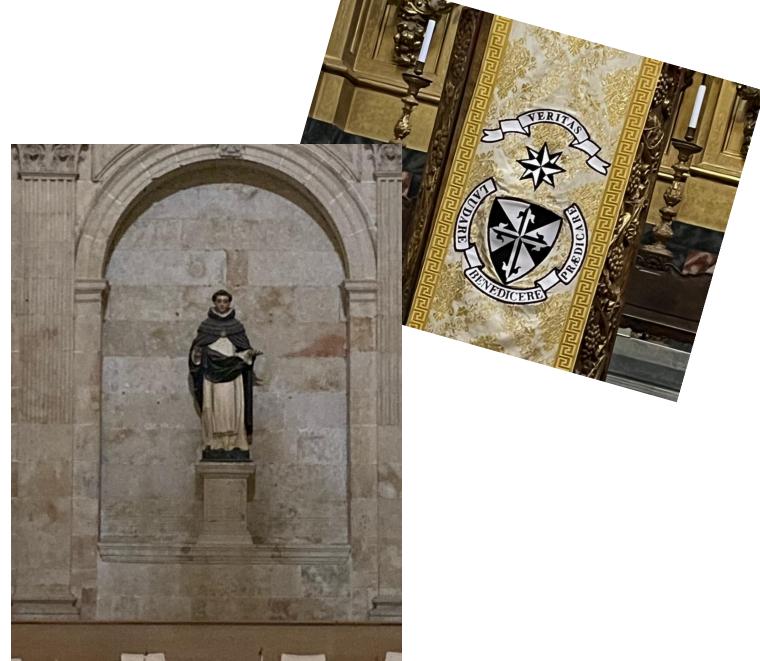
The experience of entering the Monastery

On entering this sacred space, one ought to breathe deeply and walk quietly and respectfully. The Monastery of St. Stephen is not a noisy place; there is no hurry here.

Discover everything the monastery amasses. The modern world started being drawn here (16th century): Christopher Columbus, America, international law, the University of Salamanca and, within it, modern economic science, knowledge of nature...

But we must also let the monastery, with its peace, presence and atmosphere, get to us (silent knowledge).









The cloister is the central part of the monastery.

The different spaces for the life in common are arranged around this courtyard: the refectory or dining hall, the chapter rooms, the access to the church and the sacristy; the library and the rooms, the access to the bedrooms...

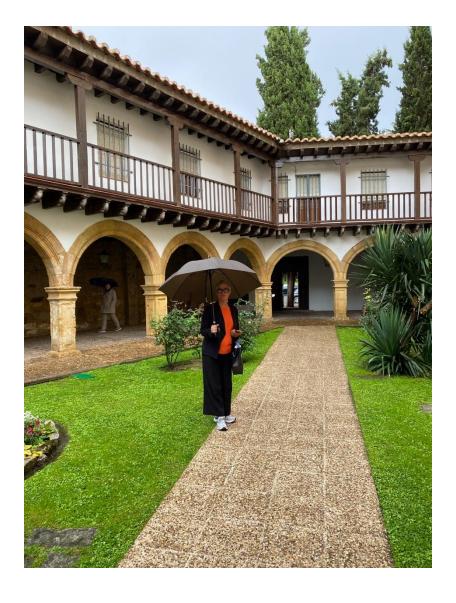




Liturgical celebrations are held in the cloister, mainly processions, which are the collective expression of a praise of God. On those occasions, the doors of the monastery are open so that the faithful participate in the celebrations. The cloister does not keep the monk in isolation. On the contrary, it connects him to the History.









Dominican convent in Salamanca





