

Church History Sr. 10

after his name O. F. M. and that means Ordre Fratres Minores, the Order of Lesser Brothers. It is a name which Francis gave to his order and he asked for papal support but the pope said, "We've got too many orders already. You ought to join one

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According to the story, Innocent III had a dream one night and he saw the Vatican begin to fall over, St. Peter's church beginning to go to pieces, and stood men stood up and held up the door, held it upright. One of them was a Spaniard and one of them was an Italian and he saw that he should give his support to these two men. One of them was Francis. So he gave a certain temporary support which eventually his successor made permanent to the right of Francis and his followers to go all through the country wandering from place to place begging bread and doing service to the people and giving the people absolution. They could let them confess their sins to them and they could give them the message from the pope, directly responsible to the pope without much responsibility to the local bishops. Now the other man, Dominic, was a very different sort of man. He originally had no interest in this idea of people wandering around or of people being poverty-stricken and begging for bread but he took them up from Francis and they became very effective in his order also. His idea originally was to reach heresy. Francis' idea was to study the love of Christ and to be absolutely free from this world's goods and encumbrances. Dominic's idea was to overcome heresy. In southern France at this time the greater part of the country had fallen into Albigensianism, a belief which was very close to Manicheism, but which in the lives of the people had produced an outward strictness and a sternness of moral character which contrasted very strikingly with the laxity and the immorality of the clergy in general at the time. Pope Innocent III declared a crusade against the Albigenses and the armies went there and killed