

Adrian Dominicans: SWOT synthesis of Reflection Circles

<p>General principles or Identity statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If you make my word your home, you will come to know the Truth and the Truth will set you free. We come together for the sake of the Mission as we build our future as Dominicans. We go deeper into the word. As the seed is planted, the word spreads. We need to become the message, to be true to ourselves and listen to the God within. ❖ That we are truth seekers and that in the search our charism is evolving. The holy preaching imperative calls for creativity
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We were struck by the similarities which will bring us together to speak the Truth. We are challenged now, as Dominic was in his time. (Both a strength and a challenge) ✓ There has been a change of attitude among Dominicans. We used to see the differences. Looking at the similarities will bring us together. ✓ We were impressed by the information: there was an emphasis on study, on justice, on collaboration and networking and on remaining fearless about the future. We too believe in strengthening and expanding our Dominican Sisterhood ✓ We draw insights from a strong heritage: the innate belief that we are compelled to preach truth ✓ We are committed to study and new insight ✓ We live in the here & now; we need to recognize the truths, untruths and needs of today.
<p>Weaknesses (internal challenges)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lay counterparts and associates need to be more steeped in the charism, need a common formation for partners in ministry. ❖ The need to address honestly the role of the lay Associates – how they relate to us; how they live the charism; how we enrich the lives of one another (weakness into challenge)
<p>Opportunities (i.e. concrete ideas for situations/needs to address in the world outside the congregation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lands of Dominica and Fanjeau retreats/experiences may also help spread the Charism to associates and co-workers. ● Prayers of those who can't participate in ministry will assist those who are able to do so.
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our challenge to have women enter parallels the Church's shrinking congregations.
<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are intercultural challenges between American and African Sisters. Integration of cultures is important. ✓ We were struck by the similarities which will bring us together to speak the Truth. We are challenged now, as Dominic was in his time. ✓ Dominic today would advise that our prayer continue to be informed by study and that our preaching would be current, timely and fearless. We should not be afraid to be creative and collaborative, benefitting from other charisms as well. ✓ The holy preaching imperative calls for creativity ✓ We need to incorporate the latest technology and social media ✓ We need to collaborate with other Dominicans, other Religious, and lay Associates. This requires honest and open communication

- ✓ As Gospel women, we need to stay focussed, committed to the mission and convinced that God's word is relevant to the "heresies" of today
- ✓ Need to respect others' truth
- ✓ We must not hold the information so tightly that it becomes anchored and rigid
- ✓ Be careful not to glamorize the past because of the messiness of today

Comments or observations on the process

- Questions arose as to whether Sisters of Mary of the Eucharist are participating in this project.