

Africa Dominicans compiled RC SWOT

Guiding principles or Identity statements - We are Dominican women called to....

- ❖ One can make a difference in his/her area of specialization acting out of compassion. As Dominicans we are aware of our call, diversity and mission and what we ought to do.(We are informed).
- ❖ Continuous catechism and study, continuous assessment of our faith.
- ❖ Gospel of humanity which was preached by Jesus Christ and St Dominic: compassion, prayer, mercy, service, care, love
- ❖ To continue the mission of Christ inspired by St Dominic
- ❖ If Dominic would be here today, he still want to preach the truth and like in the video of the core team, allow his followers to be feet and hands to the needy
- ❖ He would urge his followers to spread out and share the charism
- ❖ Call to nurture life in all its aspects especially as we examine the quality of our Presence in our Ministries
- ❖ Be a prophetic presence in our world that is full of difficulties: sickness, broken families and all kinds of abuse. Be there and make a difference. Make deliberate moves to be there for the needy.
- ❖ Use of modern Technology for Evangelisation/Preaching thus reaching out to many people
- ❖ Big ears, small mouth and provide care for each other from the heart.
- ❖ In a materialistic world embrace voluntary poverty that the world can learn from us that happiness is not cast on material things.

Strengths

- ✓ We are all echoing the same thing, Dominican spirituality has to continue; the zeal is still the same.
- ✓ We are aware of our mission/call as Dominicans. Issue of truth is universally acclaimed by all.
- ✓ The zeal to follow Dominic's footsteps and live Christian values.
- ✓ Though there are few sisters, the projects run very well
- ✓ Most significant is that all members embraced the idea of collaboration with other O.Ps
- ✓ Personal conviction that we are for mission for collaboration with other Dominicans
- ✓ Individuals were all prepared for the group work
- ✓ Most participant began their sharing with St. Dominic. A great presence to what we are.

Weaknesses – challenges internal to each congregation

- ❖ Lack of adequate finances
- ❖ The lack of resources: personnel/financially to implement or sustain the charism in certain relevant ministries.
- ❖ So many ministries but few sisters (*How we are addressing this may be a weakness*)
- ❖ Multiple responsibilities causing work overload/burn out (*how we are addressing this may be a weakness*)
- ❖ A lot of responsibilities/so many ministries, but few sisters
- ❖ Few numbers of sisters

- ❖ Lack of Dominican lay groups

- ❖ Address the need for training in the various media approaches e.g. Facebook, twitter, Whatsapp

- ❖ In the futuring questions, only challenges were stated but no way forward to the challenges

Opportunities (i.e. concrete ideas for situations/needs to address in the world outside the congregation)

Looking internally at ourselves

- ✚ Sacrifice: move from our comfort zones (in a challenging world)
- ✚ Ways of strengthening our faith e.g. study of theology, spiritual workshops etc.
- ✚ The zeal to follow Dominic's footsteps and live Christian values.
- ✚ Finding creative ways of promoting and sustaining vocations by forming formators
- ✚ What about sharing insights on how Africans can support projects in Africa so that they learn self-sustainability

Intentional collaboration with other Dominicans

- ✚ Communion/collaboration with other Dominicans
- ✚ Possibility of having exchange visits among the O.P.s
- ✚ Common Recollection days, Workshop facilitated by O.Ps

Mission and ministry

- ✚ Address today's heresies (false teachings)
- ✚ Engagement in exchange programs across our boundaries and collaboration in our diverse ministries.
- ✚ International broadcaster: media (combined efforts)
- ✚ Engaging and embracing non-Catholics in Dominican spirituality just as Christ said "...for whoever is not against us is for us". Mark 9:39 and John 17: 20-21
- ✚ Ways of how to inspire people so that they identify with our spirituality.
- ✚ Engage in new ways of evangelization

Intentional collaboration with lay partners/people

- ✚ Collaboration with our lay partners – make a deliberate move/effort to form our lay partners and be open to share our Dominican mission and Charism with them
- ✚ To collaborate more with lay Partners by delegating some responsibilities in carrying out the mission of Christ
- ✚ Training lay people for leadership in our institutions
- ✚ The need to involve lay partners more

Youth

- ✚ Call to involve the youth more in Dominican spirituality.
- ✚ Ways of engaging youth in the Church

Threats - what might hinder us?

- Strategies of how we can break-through the barriers which are hindering us from preaching the truth as Dominicans
- Donor dependency
- What happens to the projects when donors cease to fund the projects?
- Fallacies that sisters have a lot of money
- So many ministries but few sisters (*This fact is a Threat, but how we deal with it may be a Weakness or a Strength*)

- A lot of responsibilities/so many ministries, but few sisters (*This fact is a Threat, but how we deal with it may be a Weakness or a Strength*)

Challenges (internal suggestions/questions)

- ✓ How to balance the needs of traditional apostolates and new needs?
- ✓ To strengthen the formation of young Dominicans e.g. torch bearers, DYM, Associates and sisters to ensure continuity of the Dominican Charism
- ✓ Use diversity as a strength not a weakness
- ✓ How much quality time do we have for the people we serve?
- ✓ A challenge to respond to the needs of our people/ our world by bringing that hope to all especially to those who have lost hope.
- ✓ Promoting the Dominican mission/charism within our ministries

- ✓ Being open to the needs of our time and collaborate more with Dominicans world wide
- ✓ Work in collaboration with the other branches of the Dominicans present in Kenya. Dare to take risks and complement each other.

- ✓ Take risk and venture into new missions. Involve the laity and keep your identity in order to attract more vocations

- ✓ This project proposes that the implementation plan will, if fulfilled, hopefully answer the problem of numbers in an effort to answer to all needs within the run projects

Observations on the process:

- Engage others to find out how the communities we serve feel about our work/how we impart on them: this will lead us to know where we need to change and what we need to uphold
- Indicate exactly how many sisters and lay partners are in each ministry
- Involvement of more lay partners in giving responses to futuring questions
- The number of lay partners in our ministries (missing information)
- In the futuring questions, only challenges were stated but no way forward to the challenges