

## Houston Dominican SWOT synthesis of the Reflection Circles

<p><b>Guiding principles or Identity statements - We are Dominican women called to....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Distinct gift today is to model peace and justice. Be attentive to the signs of the time and be in relationship with others, be willing to listen.</li> <li>❖ Continue to go where the people are and help to meet their needs!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We are already putting infrastructure in place for the future</li> <li>● See percentage of lay involvement so similar all over</li> <li>● High percentage of lay involvement in congregations</li> </ul> <p>Over the years, have not noticed evolution, but now, we see the results.</p>
<p><b>Weaknesses – Internal challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● People for leadership in the future is dwindling; will we become one group as we dwindle in the US?</li> <li>● The aging of the sisters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities (i.e. concrete ideas for situations/needs to address in the world outside the cong)</b></p> <p><b>Internal opportunities (i.e. identified need and response)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop a new transitional model to continue our charism and vocations</li> <li>✓ Collaborative training to move all our sponsored ministries, to insure the future of Dominican charism.</li> <li>✓ Strengthen the collaboration among Dominican congregations to develop an infrastructure for the future.</li> <li>✓ Recognizing the equality of the sisters and lay partners by strengthening our collaboration, formation and integration.</li> <li>✓ Dialog across boundaries</li> <li>✓ Develop cultural awareness and integration</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats</b></p>
<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Training ministers to continue without vowed members' presence for the future</li> <li>✓ How to create legal structures to make sure the charism continues in the future. Specifically, a judicial person to continue the mission</li> <li>✓ How to get the Dominican charism to people who have not experienced the charism</li> <li>✓ How to provide ways to engage young adults into action? "Come and tell us what <u>you</u> are hungering for, rather than telling you who <u>we</u> are?"</li> <li>✓ What are the skills we will need to carry on charism into the future?</li> </ul>

### Comments/Observations on the process:

- Missing: the opportunity to count our Dominican Family as lay partners.