

(17th April) Discernment Circles analysis – US collaborative work

The desired context / understandings out of which we wish to move forward

- ✚ To use a narrative of communion in our planning and work together rather than a narrative of diminishment. This is important because it opens us to creative, open energy; it calls us to look at what we can do together!
- ✚ To continue to engage in contemplative conversation with each other where we can identify together what we are being called to.
- ✚ Deep listening to each other, self, God will help us grow in trust, awareness of our connectedness and our ability to name and face the reality of this moment.
- ✚ To focus on developing relationships so we deepen understanding and build bridges among us... use story telling. This will all lead us to greater collaboration –
- ✚ To humbly accept we are no longer in a position of power/privilege. All creation and ourselves are in transition. We are setting directions, not determining an end product. Can we see ourselves as a MOVEMENT not an establishment? This is a shift in mindset for us. Where we have power use it to influence as we can. Where we realize we are not coming from a place of power engage in other organizations that share similar values and join in their actions rather than trying to create them ourselves.

A concluding thought

This is a moment to work together to determine how best to carry the charism into the future in the areas of formation, social media, outreach to youth, justice, sponsorship. Engage in a collaborative process that becomes real/concrete on a national level with some supportive structure. Engage in a two-fold focus:

- ❖ take care of sponsored institutions now
- ❖ work to future the charism distinct from the institutions

	Area/theme/movement	Goal	Rationale	Actions	Questions/issues
1.	Dominican charism and spirituality for the world	Keep charism alive and contribute to the spirituality of the whole world Be leaders in promoting Gospel values	The charism is the gift of the Spirit and needs to speak to generations to come, to a world greatly in need of truth Importance of interaction and underlying values of mutuality and respect.	Stress the relatedness of the charism/Dominican life; how it relates to everyday life Clarify meaning of Dominican family Include, invite, accept lay partners Study and delve into scripture	

			Each has a piece of the truth	Contemplate and pass on to others the fruit of contemplation (x2)	
2.	Formation of partners to share in and develop the charism	<p>To expand, share, and engage others in the Dominican charism – youth, young adults, partners, associates</p> <p>To explore and develop models to assist our partners to thrive and grow within the Dominican Charism</p>	<p>Associates are a gift to the Order and share in our charism and mission</p> <p>While this will assist our institutions, the process should focus on charism rather than institutions, and be done in a collaborative way so they can live Dominican life the way that they are called.</p>	<p>Gather best practices & resources from OPs and other groups of religious who do this well; make the resources accessible e.g. establish a virtual library</p> <p>Create an intentional formation program to further the OP charism in our sponsored institutions.</p> <p>Create a shared process, study, dialogue around the common threads of our OP spirituality and charism</p> <p>Clarify our identity and engage lay partners, youth, sponsored institutions, students in the process and learnings (x 3)</p> <p>Strengthen Dominican formation for associates, young adults, youth—ALL collaborators with us and to prepare lay partners to assume leadership in sponsored institutes</p>	

3	Structures and programmes for collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New structures - Current structures/institutions 	<p>Develop a compelling statement related to our OP charism and work together as Sisters, Associates and Lay Partners</p> <p>Create structures to facilitate our growth and collaboration around: formation, leadership, retirement and other issues (x3)</p>	<p>We are silos and isolated from one another</p> <p>So that all can recognize their call to the charism, its gift to the world and how it helps shape our mission in the world</p>	<p>A national OP collaborative team that guides, strengthens and oversees common movement forward in this process</p> <p>Over the next 10 years, divest from our institutions and free younger sisters for mission</p>	<p>For this collaboration to succeed we need significant people who see the value of these collaborative efforts present in the various entities to keep the visioning and dialogue going on the larger level</p>
4.	Strengthen DWA and membership for collaboration with partners	<p>To strengthen national collaboration within and among all of our members around the issue of our Dominican charism and formation for all</p> <p>Forming the formators..... support needs in formation in both worlds</p>	<p>Include the Dominican Women Afire in these conversations from the beginning</p> <p>Conversations about further congregational mergers or other ways of shared leadership so as to free members for ministry</p> <p>Need for initial/on-going formation of vowed members, together with associates and lay partners, in education about the Dominican Charism</p>	<p>Dominican Women Afire continue to support fostering relationships for mission with and across partners</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration among DWA</p> <p>Work toward a collaborative formation ministry for all new Dominicans</p> <p>Prepare vowed members, for the future with leadership skill training, communication skills etc.</p>	
5.	Call to <i>communio</i> to address heresies and injustices (mission & ministry)	<p>Establish a National Institute (need not be a physical structure, nor one congregation) to strengthen our ability to</p>	<p>Increase the visibility of the Dominican family</p> <p>For mission</p>	<p>Connect OP History and Catholic Social Teaching; engage in Spirituality and evangelization</p>	<p>Can we develop a means for dialogue, disputation, lay preaching, and contemplative</p>

		<p>promote justice & peace, ecological and education issues, and speak with one voice the truth of our mission as Dominicans.</p> <p>Through this structure identify heresies of today and who, what, where, when we speak – sisters and lay companions together (x5)</p> <p>Radicalize our voice</p>	<p>...so we achieve a OP voice to speak with authority on an issue and to help focus formation (x2)</p>	<p>Call all OPs to actions that address splinteredness—in all of its manifestations</p> <p>Education in new cosmology</p> <p>Establish teams of people to study and respond to injustice and suffering (x2)</p> <p>Develop a process for common OP sponsorship (x2)</p>	<p>listening that will counter the prevalent culture of violence and division?</p>
6.	Collaboration for inculturality; recognising our global reality	<p>Develop our awareness of inculturation and capacity to recognise and embrace diversity and seek to understand those around us (x3)</p>	<p>Education in different cultures to avoid one culture dominating</p> <p>Commitment to intercultural growth, exchange, dialogue</p>	<p>Live radical hospitality within congregations and with those with whom we work</p> <p>Take the risk to be open and learn. Articulate where we want/need to grow in relation to this.</p>	
7.	Use of technology/social media for collaboration	<p>To create a unified message and voice about our charism and mission and increase our visibility in the world</p> <p>Engage more fully in social media to build relationships among us, share stories & expand our preaching (x2)</p>	<p>To help connect us with one another, share resources, i.e. educational and spiritual and aid collaboration (x3)</p> <p>We need to develop these connections across various platforms for preaching and to strengthen our global connections (x3)</p>	<p>Training in using technology: twitter, Facebook, instagram, snapchat etc. (x2)</p>	<p>Funding is a challenge</p>

	<p>Social media to reach youth</p>	<p>Reach out to young people where they are especially through social media in the ways they are able to engage with it In order to prepare future vowed members, associates, and lay leaders for the future</p>	<p>A way to actively invite/involve youth A way to speak truth A way to build relationships with youth</p>	<p>Commit more resources and personnel nationally for young adult programs to sustain Dominican life into the future Use language and methodologies that meet young people where they are Create a social media campaign working with young people</p>	
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