

Preaching for Morning Prayer

Dominican Colleges and Universities Colloquium

June 20

The Lamp of the Body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light.”

“Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

For weeks and months now, you have been looking forward to this event, and making travel plans. For over two years, the Edgewood Family has been “getting ready for company”, your good company! For *over 800 years*, St. Dominic has been looking forward to us gathering here together, in his name, to remember what it means to be part of a Dominican College or University. And, so, what DOES it mean to be Dominican? To share ministry in the Dominican tradition?

What is our treasure?

Where is our source of light?

There are many reality shows on Television these days, and some of the most popular are the Makeover Shows: ABC’s Extreme Makeover, and Extreme Makeover Home Edition, TLC’s “What Not to Wear”, and the Style Network’s “How Do I Look?” to mention just a few. The essential element of all of these makeover shows is transformation: of ones’ home, body, or external appearance.

In some of these shows, an element of **internal transformation** is a supporting value.

As we gather together from many corners of this country, and indeed, the world for this 10th Dominican colleges and universities Colloquium, I suggest that we are all Dominicans, seeking our own transformation. Furthermore, this might be a time for our own style makeover-- for the soul.

Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel: The Lamp of the Body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light." If it is the eye we are focused on, perhaps we could adapt the title "How Do I Look?" to: **How Do I See?**

Jesus also challenges us: "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."
How Do I See?

So, how might this transformation look for us?

What do I see? Whom do I see? What do I treasure? What do I seek?

Being Dominicans, aligned with Dominican institutions of higher learning, we cherish the gift of Dominican values. Each institution names them a bit differently.

Some of the Dominican values that hold us together are visible for us on the flags that line Edgewood College Drive, and the flags that adorn the campus. The Dominicans of Sinsinawa, through our sponsored institutions, have named the values as these:

Truth Compassion Justice Partnership Community

These Dominican values, a legacy from St. Dominic, provide a lens for us as we seek transformation and ask: **How Do I See?** These ministry values are the way in which God touches us and we touch one another.

Truth: Dominic gave us many insights about truth, particularly the truth that each person is of value. One of these truths related to our transformation might be that “all are welcome.” How do we live out this truth in our institutions? What transformation do we need?

Compassion: The Gospels are filled with examples of Jesus’ acts of compassion. How do we see or avoid seeing the needs of others in our Colleges and Universities? How can we move from the seeming desperation of situations to being persons of inspiration, of compassion and hope?

Justice: How did Jesus see the evils of his day? How do we see and preach against the evils of our day, against the violence of war, the blindness of racism, sexism and homophobia?

Partnership: What opportunities do we see to join hands, across human barriers, and work together to develop educational opportunities for all? How dedicated are we to this value?

Community: What are the relationships that present themselves, that we can seek out, to deepen our transformation? Where are our treasures? Where is our heart?

What keeps us rooted in the ground of our own being?

What Dominican values does your institution proclaim? However we name them, these values are the gift that unites us and transforms us, the spiritual DNA that reminds us that we are Dominicans. These values are the gift that support us as we become the water for the parched land of our world, as we become the blade

that plows the soil of our students, as we shine a light on the treasures of the heart. These are the values that bring meaning to our lives and hope to the lives we touch daily.

So, I invite us all into an enthusiastic journey to the depth of our souls these days, a journey of spiritual makeover and transformation, asking ourselves,

Where are my treasures?

Where is my heart?

How can I be more fully Dominican?

How Do I See? Remembering that only those who can see the invisible, can accomplish the impossible.