

COMMUNITY

LEARNING: ANCHORED IN OUR DOMINICAN HERITAGE...

1. The early Christians expressed Jesus' vision of the reign of God by placing their respective gifts at the service of the community (Ephesians 4:11-13)
2. St. Dominic joyfully befriended others to join him as preachers and teachers of God's expansive love and mercy, and to engage in a compelling search for Truth that has endured more than 800 years.
3. In a world wounded by divisions, exploitation and oppression, the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa place the "fostering of right relationships" at the heart of their ministry and life in community.
4. Recognizing the interdependence and community of all beings, Pope Francis reminds us that "The sun and the moon, cedar and little flower, eagle and sparrows: the spectacle of their countless diversities and differences tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other in the service of each other" (*Laudato Si'* #86).

BELIEFS: WHAT DOES THIS REALLY MEAN TO US...

1. Our community welcomes individuals who reflect a rich diversity of characteristics, cultures and perspectives that enrich our life together.
2. Communities are complex and dynamic, messy and challenging. As we welcome new members into community, we share our traditions while expecting to be changed by the gifts each person contributes.
3. The careful study, prayerful reflection, open-minded listening and respectful dialogue of the Dominican Studium enable us to embrace the tensions and contradictions that arise.
4. Community relationships are the heart of our mission and the core of good teaching and learning.

ACTIONS: WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO...

1. Communicate honestly and openly, share ideas and discoveries, listen with respect, and encourage one another with suggestions that are both helpful and challenging for growth.
2. Recognize that we will fall short and hold each other accountable with "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2-3).
3. Join many others in building a world that is informed and engaged, inclusive and free, compassionate, sustainable and just: "the Beloved Community" (Martin Luther King, Jr.).

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted frequently that "Our ultimate end must be the creation of the Beloved Community."



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