

COMPASSION

LEARNING: ANCHORED IN OUR DOMINICAN HERITAGE...

1. The story of Dominic is one of compassion – as a young college student he sold his books to feed those who were starving.
2. Dominican Catherine of Siena understood that human beings are made for compassion – with “ears to attend to others’ needs...hands to serve and help”. (D144)
3. The founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, practiced a ministry of compassion – he translated the Gospels into the languages of America’s indigenous peoples.
4. The Edgewood College motto proclaims the centrality of compassion – *cor ad cor loquitur* (heart speaks to heart): is a picture of compassion’s deep and motivating awareness of the suffering of others.
5. The worldwide Dominican Family rejoices in the Scriptures’ promise of compassion – “Our God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” (Psalm 103:9)

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

1. We believe the suffering of others cries out for our compassionate response.
2. Each of us is created with inherent dignity and infinite value, equally worthy of care, respect and compassion.
3. Some people need to be served by compassion first: those who are most vulnerable or who benefit least from existing social conditions.

ACTIONS: WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO...

1. To educate ourselves about the needs and suffering of our brothers and sisters near and far.
2. To cultivate our moral imaginations through study, contemplation and service with and on behalf of those most in need.
3. To advocate for ethical leadership, the alleviation of suffering, and lives of compassionate service.
4. To embody the compassion of God by welcoming the stranger, accompanying the discriminated, supporting the weak.



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