

together

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2023



INTERCONGREGATIONAL ■ INTERCULTURAL ■ INTERNATIONAL

TOGETHER

MARCH MUSINGS

Sometimes it's a quick hug in the Atrium before classes begin, other times we're sitting down in my office to go over course planning or feedback on assignments, and still other times I am sitting around their dining room table enjoying good food and company. The moments gather and fill the heart with smiles, and accompaniment and questions and hopes. I have been a part of their journey from early on in their time at Catholic Theological Union (CTU). However, the ability to also be their *Together* Liaison this year has meant that we are more intentional about the times and ways we connect. Each of the women in the *Together* community this year have shared these moments with me, allowing me to accompany them on their educational and formational journey – *and it has been an honor.*

As three of them prepare to graduate, I am impressed with all they have accomplished. They are off to new ministerial and congregational appointments more equipped with critical theological knowledge and skills they have learned at CTU.

They also have a deeper sense of how intercongregational collaboration might be effective in future ministry. They go forward with a deeper awareness of how the charism of their own community interplays with the foundational roots of all religious communities. And they hold cherished memories of hugs and laughter and lament with one another.



The heart of *Together* will be a part of each of them as they continue their journey elsewhere.

It is a blessing to accompany these amazing women. The moments gather and fill and invite more to come!

Christina (Chrissy) R. Zaker, DMin
Together Program Liaison

Pictured below: Together community attends the play "the ripple, the wave that carried me home" with the InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate (ICCN).



LIVES FOREVER CHANGED

Happy Spring!

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, we have a lot on our plates leading up to the end of the semester! For this reflection, we (Kelly and Jane) will reflect on the last year as we are both set to graduate in May 2023. We can hardly believe it!

Jane joined the *Together* Program in 2019 and Kelly in 2021. We have had many adventures over the years. One that stands out from this year was attending the play *the ripple, the wave that carried me home* with the InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate (ICCN). The play centers on the history of segregated swimming pools in Kansas. The powerful play gave us new insights into a piece of history many of us were unfamiliar with. After the play, we had a conversation with the ICCN about our takeaways from the experience. As two of the Americans in the group, it was eye-opening to hear about the US's history with racism from different contexts and perspectives.

The kind of intercultural living experience that *Together* has provided gave us the opportunity

to learn about other cultures, as well as deepen our understanding of our own. We've found that while there are differences in all of us based on our country of origin or region of the U.S. we're from, there are also things that unite us.

We've learned about each others' religious practices in our communal prayer and tried different foods from one another's culture (one time, we even called someone's mom for a pasta recipe!). We've expanded our taste in music and found artists for whom we share a common love.

Living in community has not only helped deepen our relationships with one another but also provided a "built-in" support system for navigating grad school. During our conversations at table we often jokingly say, "Welcome to dinner! Where you find out everything you've missed!" Many of us share classes and, over dinner, may discover a rapidly approaching deadline or an event happening at CTU. When projects get overwhelming, having the encouragement and support of a community that understands the challenges and joys has been one of the greatest gifts of being part of this program.



As we look toward graduation, we have hearts full of gratitude for all the *Together* Program has given us. We take the lessons of living in an intercultural community, of sharing hopes, dreams, and challenges, and we carry them with us into the future, wherever God is calling us.

Our lives are forever changed because of the experience of living in this community!

We encourage communities to send their newer members so that they, too, may share in the gifts of the program.

Jane Aseltyne, IHM & Kelly Williams, RSM

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TOGETHER COMMUNITY THIS FALL? LET'S TALK!
REACH OUT TO CHRISSY BY EMAIL AT CZAKER@CTU.EDU.**

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