

together

INTERCONGREGATIONAL | INTERCULTURAL | INTERGENERATIONAL



TOGETHER

PIONEERS: BOLD & FAITHFUL

With the completion of their programs in May 2020, they will be remembered as *pioneer* women, sent forth by their congregations to share in creating something *new*. We are *grateful* for their bold faith.

Little did I know when I wrote the spring edition of this newsletter that a worldwide pandemic was about to dramatically change life as we knew it. Even as we anticipated the coming of spring, COVID-19 changed everything.

Members of the *Together* community experienced an abrupt closure of their journey together. Catholic Theological Union (CTU) made the necessary but difficult decision to close the academic building and move all classes online. The city of Chicago stay-at-home order heightened the possibility that students could be quarantined in Chicago for an indefinite time. Faced with difficult decisions themselves and in consultation with each of their religious communities, Sisters HaeRok, Sushma, and Tracy packed their bags and returned to their community houses: Sister HaeRok (Greensburg, SC) to the northside of Chicago; Sister Tracy (SC) to Cincinnati, OH; and Sister Sushma (SCN) to Nazareth, KY.

As you might imagine, the unpredictable and unsettling nature of this time gave rise to a mixture of emotions. The strong communal bonds and relationships among the participants was a source of strength as we dealt with our sadness knowing that we would say goodbye to one another sooner than we had hoped or planned. At the same time, we received a great gift knowing that lifelong friendships would continue.

I want to personally congratulate and thank Sisters Sushma and Tracy for being the first class to enter the *Together* program when it opened in August of 2018. Sister Sushma and Sister Tracy wholeheartedly embraced the purpose and meaning of *Together*. Their engagement manifested and embodied the values at *Together's* core: community, formation, and study. With the completion of their programs in May

2020, they will be remembered as pioneer women, sent forth by their congregations to share in creating something *new*. We are grateful for their bold faith.

And finally, it is with deep gratitude that I share the news of my own unfolding journey. On June 5 I completed my service as Program Coordinator for the *Together* Program. I have learned a great deal and been blessed beyond measure serving *Together* in its inaugural years, 2018-2020.

I pray for the continued success and growth of the *Together* program. I trust that future participants and members of *Together* will receive the guidance and love of the Holy Spirit in abundance.

Gratefully,



Karina Conrad, CDP

Application materials for the fall 2020 cohort are still available! Visit the *Together* website:

WWW.TOGETHER-FORMATION.COM

Interested in applying for the part-time *Together* Program Coordinator position?

**Learn more online:
www.relforcon.org**

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Although we had to quickly pack up our living spaces and journey to our home communities, we enjoyed the opportunities to live and learn together this semester.

Thank you to all who supported us and our Together journey!

LIKE THE FIRST DISCIPLES OF JESUS, YOU TOO ARE BEING INVITED TO LEAVE A COMFORTABLE PLACE, TO TRAVEL ON UNKNOWN SEAS, AND TO WITNESS TO THE LOVE OF GOD.

-MARICHUI BRINGAS, CCVI

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