

together

INTERCONGREGATIONAL | INTERCULTURAL | INTERGENERATIONAL



TOGETHER

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

How do you engage in formation in an inter-congregational living community when there are different perspectives represented among the participants and their congregations' charism?

How do you continue to live your commitment to vowed life in this context?


I've been asked many times about the formation component of the *Together* program. The questions above are the kind of curious questions inquirers have regarding the meaning of formation in the context of the program. I admit that at first, I, too, had to imagine and explore what formation would look like in a community of women religious from diverse cultures and charisms. What I realized is that we already have within our congregations some experience of this reality. We come with different perspectives rooted in different life experiences, cultural understandings, and charisms.

The formation component of *Together* is not meant to be a substitute for the congregation's formation program. Rather, it is designed to strengthen and support the essential elements of living vowed religious life as a lifelong process. The whole experience,

inclusive of theological education, community, and formation is ultimately formative. Integration of the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of formation is a core principle of *Together*.

The *Together* community has spent its formative experience supporting and growing with one another spiritually and communally. The community gathers one night a week to share and reflect on themes such as the vowed life, discipleship, theological reflection, scripture, communal life, and personal growth.

This past semester, we welcomed presenters: Connie Schoen, OP, Don Senior, CP, Dianne Bergant, CSA, and Chrissy Zaker. We had a lovely Valentine's day gathering with our friends from the Hesburgh Sabbatical program, Institute of Religious Formation, and CTU students on campus. More to come as we enter the final few weeks of the semester!



Karina Conrad, CDP
Program Coordinator

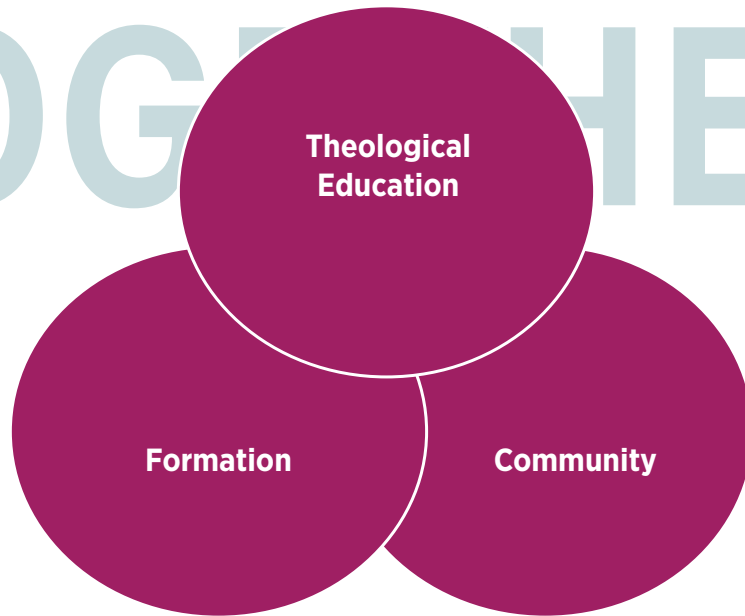
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FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A MENTOR...

I have had the privilege of mentoring Tracy, one of our temporary professed sisters, while she has been studying at CTU and participating in the *Together* program. It was easy for us to stay in touch and have in depth conversations through Skype or phone calls. We always met in person when she came home for breaks or community meetings. Also, I was able to visit the *Together* community and meet the other women in the program. Making that connection was very important for both of us. The gift of the *Together* program is that the sisters are part of an intentional community encouraging each other in their studies and in their commitments as women religious. *-Barbara Hagedorn, SC*

TOGETHER



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The goal of theological education is to acquire a foundation in theology, scripture, and ministry and apply it to one's personal, communal, and ministerial life. Participants pursue theological education through their enrollment in a degree or certificate program at CTU.

FORMATION

Participants engage in formative elements such as theological reflection, spiritual direction, and experiences that foster interpersonal skills for community living, intercultural capacities, effective communication, and other integrative learning.

COMMUNITY

The program enables holistic integration of the intellectual, affective, and spiritual components of a person's life. It fosters transformative growth and development that springs forth from the communal effort to support each other. In the midst of the challenges and successes of graduate work, participants can rely on one another to journey together during this time.



We had a fun evening with our friends at CTU, IRF, and Hesburgh at our Valentine's Day party. The game of *Jenga* was definitely a favorite!

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Questions? Please reach out.

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