

together

INTERCONGREGATIONAL | INTERCULTURAL | INTERGENERATIONAL



TOGETHER

ROAD MAPS OF LIFE

“The beginning of the new year is a good time to get out our road maps of life. We can gain wisdom by looking at the places of our hearts where we have traveled during the past year. As we look back over the journey, it is helpful to identify the places that blessed us, affirmed us, enlivened us and enriched us. We also need to reflect on the situations that challenged us, tested us, discouraged us, or maybe even tried to destroy us.”

-Joyce Rupp (taken from May I Have This Dance)

We began this new year looking back at the challenges of transitions and with grateful hearts for the friendships, support, and community we have created. Joyce Rupp’s quote confirmed that this pilot year has been a road map of blessings and growth. It is good to remember why RFC & CTU ventured into this new initiative with the *Together* program. We remember the roots of the RFC in the *Sisters Formation Movement* which led women religious to a full course of studies for those entering religious life at that time. Today, religious women and men studying at CTU have the opportunity to come together as a cohort to study theology, along with the support of a community, and ongoing formation. The *Together* program establishes a strong theological foundation for new religious today. Throughout the past few months, I have witnessed what a theological education can do in the lives of young women religious: it empowers women religious to move forward as agents of change in our church.

The *Together Visioning Committee* met on January 7-8 for a mid-year update and to continue to implement the goals of the program with the three components: theological education, community, and formation. The Visioning Committee stressed the importance of the original vision in guiding the future direction

and program adaptations. Two of their main recommendations: to have only residential participants in the next cohort and to extend participation to newly professed who are willing to commit to the program’s three components.

One of the highlights of this semester was hosting a Valentine’s Day party for CTU students and the *Institute of Religious Formation* (IRF) participants. Graduate students, at times, face a significant amount of stress and having the opportunity to take a break, enjoy time with friends, and de-stress by playing Jenga and Apples to Apples was important for self-care and to recharge our batteries.

Another important event to mention is that we survived the Polar Vortex together! It was challenging to stay indoors for 48 hours but the *Together* community made the most of it by finding warmth in each other’s company, laughing, reflecting, praying, and shared meals.

We continue to accept applications for the fall 2019 cohort. If you are interested in an individual visit, I’d be happy to set-up a time for us to meet on campus or talk over the phone.

The CTU Admissions staff is ready to help all potential students as well. Please feel free to call or email the admissions office:

Phone: (773) 371-5451

Email: admissions@ctu.edu



Karina Conrad, CDP
Program Coordinator

TOGETHER

“I thank God for my new community and seek constant blessings for us.”

STEPPING ONTO NEW LAND



I am an international student at Catholic Theological Union. When I moved to Chicago, I initially had worries and anxieties. Being in the Together community has helped me to no longer fear and worry because I feel a sense of

belonging to the Together community. I feel supported and very much at home at CTU. I thank God for my new community and seek constant blessings for us. -Sushma Bodra, SCN



Together's Sacred Spaces



**Collaborative partnership sponsored by Catholic Theological Union
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Questions? Please reach out.

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