

together

INTERCONGREGATIONAL | INTERCULTURAL | INTERGENERATIONAL



— TOGETHER THE BEST PLACE IS TO BE *TOGETHER*

The best place to be is TOGETHER.

These words hang as a welcome sign as you enter TOGETHER'S seventh floor wing at CTU's residence hall. The TOGETHER space has become an oasis for the women religious amid their busy graduate studies. It is home. It is community. It is right relationships.

The words of the late Jean Vanier express the reality of our lives together:

When you go into some communities you sense immediate warmth, peace, a deep feeling of security. There is so much love radiated. You find it in the eyes, in the smile, in the nonverbal communication. You go into other communities, and you find long faces and people not talking to each other. They are deathly polite. Jesus says, "They will know you are my disciples by the unity, the love, the joy, the peace that flows out from you" (John 13:35). This is the sign of the presence of the disciples of Jesus.

Jean Vanier's description of community becomes real when you meet the women religious in the TOGETHER program. The unity, love, joy, and peace that flow out from the TOGETHER community is tangible. Four different congregations living together with one heart. Four different cultural backgrounds living as one.

TOGETHER is truly the best place to be.

TOGETHER began its second year and I was delighted to welcome the 2019-2020 cohort: **Jane Aseltyne, IHM**, from Michigan, **Haerok Na, SC** from South Korea, and returning students **Sushma Bodra, SCN** from India, **Tracy Kemme, SC** from Cincinnati.

During orientation week, the group was invited to lunch with the RFC staff and the new students attended the CTU orientation day at which they received information regarding their program of study and learned the ins and outs of CTU. The group also toured Hyde Park and enjoyed the day at the Chicago Jazz Festival in Millennium Park. Sisters Ellen Dauwer, SC and Barbara Reid, OP joined the group to welcome them and share the history and goals of the Together program. We attended Sunday Eucharist at St. James, a lively and

multi-ethnic parish, and later enjoyed a delicious brunch at the Valois restaurant, a well-known favorite of former President Obama, in Hyde Park.

Our Thursday night formation gathering has focused on a variety of discussion topics pertinent to religious life. Community-building and evenings of reflection deepen our capacity to create healthy and whole common life. We are fortunate to have access to input from excellent local presenters and dialogue partners. This semester we welcomed the following presenters: Paul Michalenko, ST engaged us in conversation on Transitions; Barbara Reid, OP invited us to reflect on the Prophetic Nature of Religious Life; and Ellen Dauwer, SC, challenged us to cherish our commitment to Ongoing Formation. Richard Benson, CM, CTU's academic dean, visited TOGETHER to meet and share some time with the community of sisters. We reflected and shared heart-based and Spirit-filled stories rooted in our diverse community charisms. As an inter-congregational and inter-cultural community, we create opportunities to grow in our understanding, respect and appreciation of one another. One evening we gathered on the shore of Lake Michigan, a mere three blocks from our home, to share our personal vocation stories. It affirmed for us that TOGETHER is a witness to the presence of the disciples of Jesus.



Karina Conrad, CDP
Program Coordinator

Upcoming gathering: We are excited to be hosting a Halloween party for our friends at CTU, Institute of Religious Formation (IRF), Hesburgh Sabbatical, and local formation houses. All are invited to an evening of fun! Costumes encouraged! October 31 at 7:00 PM in the Residence Hall 7th floor lounge.

TOGETHER NEWSLETTER | FALL 2019 EDITION

TOGETHER

“A COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS BUILT AROUND PEOPLE; PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE SHAPED TO SUIT COMMUNITY.”

-JEAN VANIER, COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

COMMON LOVE OF GOD & OTHERS



수녀님들과 ‘함께’ 기도하고, 밥 먹고, 학교 가고, 더불어 호숫가 산책하며, 소박한 일상 안에서 함께 웃으며 살아가고 있습니다. ‘Together’ 공동체 안에서 하나님의 현존을 체험하고 있어 행복합니다.

We pray ‘together’, eat ‘together’, go to school ‘together’, take a walk around a lake ‘together’ and laugh ‘together’! I enjoy my simple life with members of the ‘Together’ Program. I am so happy to experience God’s presence in the ‘Together’ community.

HaeRok Na, SC

“The TOGETHER program is a great gift! As I am new to CTU and the city of Chicago, it is wonderful to be with other religious with whom I can pray, share a meal, study, and explore the city. The four of us come from different backgrounds and congregations, but we share a common love of God, others, and religious life. It’s so much fun getting to know each other and sharing in the adventure of being full-time grad students!”

Jane Aseltyne, IHM

**Interested in becoming part of the *Together* community?
Let’s chat! Reach out to Karina Conrad, Program Coordinator, to
get connected with a *Together* participant.**

**Collaborative partnership sponsored by Catholic Theological Union
and the Religious Formation Conference**



ReligiousFormation
CONFERENCE

Questions? Please reach out.

**Karina Conrad, CDP
Together Program Coordinator
Religious Formation Conference
Email: kconrad@relforcon.org
Phone: 773.675.8362**

**5401 S. Cornell Ave, Suite 304
Chicago, IL 60615**