

together

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2023



INTERCONGREGATIONAL ■ INTERCULTURAL ■ INTERNATIONAL

TOGETHER

CARRIERS OF JOY AND SPIRIT

Summer, Summer, Summertime!

My favourite season is inching ever closer, along with the conclusion of the school year and graduation from CTU! It is also a time for transitions in *Together* as three of us will be graduating and moving on to the next chapters of our lives. Summer is synonymous with holidays and relaxation, outdoor activities, food and music, as well as joy and travel near or far to community, friends and family. Although I'm used to our long summers in Botswana, I was especially happy to experience a Chicago summer, which is short but sweet, after a long winter and spring season – both significantly cooler than what I'm used to. A comedian we watched on a tv special last year mentioned the marking of time by counting how many summers we have left in our lives as the years go by. That stayed with us as we recalled all we planned to do together this year.

Being in *Together* for these two years has been a treasured experience of building and evolving community. Each year we formed community anew and this enriched our life at home and in our interactions

with others in CTU and the wider Hyde Park community. We found ourselves at the prayers, meals and celebrations of other communities in our neighbourhood and wider community. It has been a joy to carry some of our joy and spirit with us to our own religious communities on our semester breaks and to our families as we got to know the special people in each other's lives.

Our last evening prayer as a community of six was a special highlight this Easter season as we prayed with each other sharing the gifts of each to *Together*, keeping these gifts in our hearts, treasured for each to hold onto in prayer this year as recollection of our growth from this time. At the end of the Spring semester, gathered with Chrissy, we had a blessed evening by the lakeside as we learned to fly a kite, many of us for the first time. In spite of the brusque air over Lake Michigan, and dim twilight we were able to capture some time as we took turns guiding the kite. It was an especially warm night around dinner in the evening hearing about the adventures of Chrissy's family, too, and recalling fond memories of our



own over laughter and happy chatter. After a delicious dessert, we concluded with a special blessing with the words of the RCIA blessing to pray for our continued companionship with each other beyond *Together*.

As we take off like kites now with more knowledge of how to harness the Spirit in our lives and ministry, we look forward to the next group of *Together* women taking to the sky!

Pulane Makepe, CP

Pictured above: The Together community takes turns guiding a kite over Lake Michigan.

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

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER



Above left: Spring blooms grace the dinner table and brighten up the Together home.

Above right: Kelly Williams, RSM, Chrissy Zaker, DMin, Jane Aseltyne, IHM, and Pulane Makepe, CP pose for a picture after Catholic Theological Union's 2023 commencement exercises.

Left: Together celebrates the Risen Christ at Easter Mass with the Saint James Catholic Community in Chicago.



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Questions? Please reach out.

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