

ADRIAN DOMINICAN ASSOCIATE LIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

**Coronavirus Zoom Meeting
Thursday June 25, 2020, 5 pm**

ATTENDING via ZOOM: Connie Brady; Deb Carter; S. Patty Harvat; Carol Johnson; Mary Lach, Nancy Medina; Fabiola Reyes de Veras

- **Associate Life Board Meeting:** We give thanks for Sister Patty's return to good health.
- **Opening Prayer:** Connie Brady offered a beautiful opening prayer, which she wrote. (SEE Addendum # 1)
- **AGENDA:**
Futuring Associate Life—new date is Wednesday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. Patty spoke of the invitations to the 27 Associates. She will mail as well as email all the participants. Sister Patty, Pat, and Elise will do presentations from 10 a.m. to noon, then we will break for lunch. After lunch we will enter into communal Contemplative Dialog as a group.

Sister Mary Margaret will offer a question or observation that we will take into a chat room for discussion with a smaller group. All the discussion items will be brought to prayer and communal contemplation. After the chat room discussion, we will come back to the full group. Patrick will look at where we are and what the future holds for Associate Life. Fabiola will invite Rosa Monique to translate in real time.

Mission Statement to address the distinct charism of Associate Life remains a centering statement for us as we Embrace the Future: "The Mission of Associate Life is to respond to a call to live the Dominican charism. Associate Life provides and fosters opportunities for women and men to share life in Mission with the Adrian Dominican Sisters and Associates within a relationship of mutual support for ministry, and to develop and strengthen their commitment to the mission of Jesus."

Connie shared some of the concerns and questions which have emerged in the Coronavirus Monday Associate Zoom meeting formed by Associate Sharon Bock:

If you were to participate in the upcoming Associate Futuring meeting, what is one thing you would want to be sure that participants understand about Associates and their future?

- What are we doing to encourage active participation among the Associates who do not seem to be as engaged as we are? In what ways are we reaching out to those who are geographically distant from either vowed or Associate members? What else can we do?
- What new opportunities for living out the mission of Jesus are arising/have arisen from the pandemic?
- The attached Guide for Adrian Dominican Sojourner Groups is the most recent version (SEE Addendum #2) Please review it for discussion on Monday: Is it clear enough? comprehensive enough? What would you add? What would you delete?
- People are wondering if Associates are valued by the Sisters.
- **Associate Directors' Meeting:** Saturday, September 18, time TBD (11 am to 1 pm ET) will be open to all

Associates from multiple Congregations via Zoom. Miriam Brown will talk about being a Charism Carrier. Free of charge, will need to register. Dominican Sisters Conference is working on a website which will have eight different topics all around the charism. May be used for high school kids, Dominican laity, Associates etc.

- **Delay Partners until Saturday, November 14:** This will also be a Zoom meeting and will allow us to process the August 5 meeting with Patrick. We will create chat rooms for discussion.
- **Fall Chapter Assemblies:** October 16-18, 2020; the fall Assembly will be virtual, and the first two days will be for the Sisters only when they will discuss Governance. Associates will participate on the third day, October 18, for the discussion on racism. We need to register so we can be grouped in chat rooms. Bystander training with Dionardo Pizaña: How to respond when you hear things which are racially charged from friends, relatives, or co-workers. Here is a link to more information about Mr. Pizaña: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/dionardo-e-pizana>
- **Board terms – what do we do?** The Associate Life Advisory Board was formed in 2016. Patty and Mary feel we should wait until November to change membership of the board. Patty mentioned that the General Council will issue an extension of board membership due to the coronavirus pandemic. Nancy suggested that we consider having “Board Member Emerita” to provide consistency as new members join the board.
- **Associate Life Board Appreciation:** The Board expresses unanimous support and appreciation for the exemplary leadership the General Council has shown during the coronavirus pandemic. There is no doubt that that leadership has assured the health and safety of the Sisters.
- **Working on a prayer resource:** Mary would like to create a resource of prayers and rituals which can be made available to Associates on the Associate Life website.
- **Studying the Charism:** Mary commented on the Dominican website created to facilitate the study of the Dominican charism.

2020 TENTATIVE ASSOCIATE LIFE ADVISORY BOARD DATES

- **Futuring of Associate Life:** The confirmed rescheduled date for the Associate Futuring meeting on Zoom with the General Council and Patrick O’Neill is **August 5, 2020**, 10 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m.
- **Associate Directors’ Meeting:** Saturday, September 18, time TBD (10 or 11 a.m. ET) open to all
- **Fall Chapter Assembly:** October 16-18, 2020; the fall Assembly will be virtual. Associates will be invited to attend the discussion of racism on the third day, October 18, 2020.
- **Partners VII:** 2020 will be held via zoom on **Saturday, November 14.**

From the June 18, 2020, Letter from the General Council: “We recognize that many of us have been hoping for a ‘return to normal’ and that our call to live with the virus with its continuing restrictions may feel disappointing or even overwhelming. Let us help one another through this challenging time and commit to entering more fully into its transformative power. As Dominicans long practiced in prayer and contemplation, let us hold the needs of the people of Earth and Earth herself foremost in our hearts and minds. And let us join with Mary Oliver in praying:”

*God rest in my heart
and fortify me
Take away my hunger for answers
Let the hours play upon my body.*

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted,

Deb

Deb Carter
June 28, 2020

ADDENDUM 1 – OPENING PRAYER

By Associate Connie Brady

Creator Spirit, we call you by some of your many holy names: Justice, Love, Mercy and Peace and realize that in the naming we define our needs for contemplation and action with others in your world.

Help us to be women and men of inclusion with hearts, minds and arms open to share faith and life. We ask for inner knowing to recognize all of creation, including human persons, as your incarnation. We ask for strength and a constant awareness of our freedom as we are called to be an expression of You in each encounter in our daily life experiences.

Lead us to trust, even as the very definition of community continues to evolve for the sake of mission. Give us the wisdom to explore our transformation in light of the ongoing revelation of your love.

Inspire us to seriously consider what we are capable of; call us to conversion from old thought patterns and mental list of limitations. Help us to give up ego, fear and pride so that we are free to discern your sacred rhythm in the world.

Thank you for the wisdom to embrace our vulnerability as we follow you to a new dynamic and creative path of joy.

We thank you for courage, compassion and connection as we celebrate the sacredness of our place in history.

We are grateful for the call and challenge to be the mission of Jesus. We are blessed! – Amen.

ADDENDUM 2 – SOJOURNER GUIDELINES

A Guide for Adrian Dominican Sojourner Groups (November 2019)

What is a Sojourner Group?

A Sojourner group consists of several Associates and one or two Sisters (who can meet electronically or in person) who meet regularly for prayer, formation, mission and socializing. The word “sojourner” is defined as: to live somewhere temporarily, as on a visit; stay for a while. Sojourner also can mean a journey. Sojourner groups are already meeting in St. Louis, Anchorage, West Palm Beach, Barry University, Boca Raton, San Diego, Albuquerque, and in the Dominican Republic.

What is the purpose of a Sojourner Group?

Members of a Sojourner Group meet to join other Dominicans in prayer, friendship, formation and mission, similarly as a Mission Group meets. Sojourner groups study the Dominican Charism to see how it is working in their lives. Members also support and challenge one another.

What are the guidelines?

- Groups meet to support one another in spiritual growth.
- All meetings should have an agenda consisting of Prayer, a Sharing of Life and Faith among the members, Formation consisting of study of a Dominican book or materials from the Associate Life Office, and Business.
- Each meeting has updates on the Congregation, both locally and in Adrian itself.
- Prospective Associates are invited to join the Sojourner group.
- While books may be studied, the main purpose of the group is not to be a book club.
- While current events can be discussed, the main purpose of the group is not to discuss politics.
- Groups need to establish a calendar and meet regularly. Some meet once a month, many 4-5 times a year. Dates for meetings need to be made months in advance.
- Groups meet at the convenience of the members. This could be a morning or evening meeting or an entire day, if that is the desire of the members.
- Groups can meet in someone’s home, a church hall, or a retreat center, anywhere that is convenient for the members.
- Money may be collected and held by a treasurer. This money can be used to purchase cards, flowers, etc., or used to support a common cause. It is suggested that no more than \$25 be collected annually.
- Other roles for a Sojourner group are: chairperson for each meeting; secretary who takes minutes and submits them to the director of Associate Life as well as the Chapter Prioress; someone who leads prayer; and someone who provides refreshments. These roles can be shared by the group.
- Associates can belong to a Sojourner Group and participate in a Mission Group as well.
- Any fundraising needs to be approved by the Director and the Development Office.

Duties of the Sojourner Representative

After meeting for 3 meetings each group should name a representative.

- Each group should elect a Sojourner Representative who has authority to coordinate the group and

represent the group to the Director of Associate Life as well as the Chapter Prioress.

The duties of the representative are:

- Promote unity in the group.
- Promote the incorporation of the Adrian Dominican Congregation's Mission Statement and the General Chapter Enactments to the group.
- In time, there may be the formation of a board of representatives who will connect to talk about the needs of their groups.
- There is a process for nominating and electing a Sojourner representative, and a prayer service to accompany it.

Associate Life Mission Statement

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