

Cluster Inter-Congregational Gatherings

September 2004

Friday Evening - Opening Prayer Ritual

Opening Song: *A Journey in Faith*

M 1 (*see Music Section*)

(During the opening song, the procession will be led in by a dancer and one person from each congregation carrying a piece of the knapsack which will be placed on the prayer table in front – cloth, stick, tie, bread, wine, bible, scroll. The knapsack will be filled and closed in ritual.)

Call to Prayer:

Leader: Faithful God, you call us together today from our various congregations to begin the second cycle of the cluster discernment process and

All: WE ARE HERE.

Leader: Help us to be present with our bodies, our minds, and our hearts.

You remind us that this Inter-Congregational gathering is the next step of Cluster: A Dominican Journey in Faith and

All: WE TAKE THAT STEP.

Leader: You invite us to become better acquainted with members from our sister congregations and to share our congregational stories and

All: WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO LISTEN AND TO ENTRUST THE STORY.

Leader: You challenge us to receive and to reflect upon important information from various committees and

All: WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO OPENNESS AND PRAYERFUL STUDY.

Leader: You urge us to begin to dream some possibilities for reconfiguration and

All: WE DARE TO DREAM.

Leader: God of the Journey, we walk the way as followers of Dominic. We, like him, carry our knapsack and are nourished by the Bread of Scripture and the Bread of the Eucharist. Let this knapsack remind us that we journey in great trust, that what is essential we carry with us, and all else we need will be provided along the way. May the fruits of this gathering lead us into a new vision for the future that is your will for the Dominican Family.

All: AMEN.

Reflection question: “Which passage speaks to you of where you are in your life’s journey now?”

Proclamation of the Word

Reflection question

Sharing

Closing Prayer

Leader: Faithful God of the Journey, we thank you for providing us with all that we need – a knapsack of your providence. Like our Beloved Dominic, we hold your sacred scripture close to our hearts. As Dominican Women of the Word, we believe you are “doing something new” in and through us for the sake of the mission. We trust that you will always provide us with what we need for this journey of faith into the future. Bless us now with a deep commitment to the dream that is coming to life within us as we begin to share these days together.

All: AMEN.

Closing Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*

M 2 (*see Music Section*)