

Standing on a Threshold of a Brand New Day

Sustaining the Emerging Future Day Two: Sunday Morning and Afternoon



1

Blessing

*You must give birth to your images.
They are the future waiting to be born.
Fear not the strangeness you feel.
The future must enter you long before it happens.
Just wait for the birth,
For the hour of new clarity.*

Rainer Maria Rilke

2

Reflection and Dialogue

- In light of Saturday's content and dialogue, where does your spirit touch hope, possibility?

3

Sunday Schedule

Concluding Conversations on Sustainability

Sunday

- 10:30-12:00, Session IV: Testing Possibilities (mix)
- 1:30-3:00, Session V: Priorities for Sustainability (teams)
- 3:30-5:00, Session VI: Outcomes & Next Steps (teams)

4

Entities Supported by U.S. Dominicans

- Cluster
- Collaborative Dominican Novitiate
- Curia
- CMSM
- DLC/DSI Solidarity Fund
- Dominican Alliance
- Dominican Ashram
- Dominican Association of Secondary Schools
- Dominican College Preaching Conference
- Dominican High School Preaching Conference
- Dominican Institute of the Arts
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- Dominican Praise
- Dominican Sisters International
- Dominican Sisters USA (Federation)
- Dominican Volunteers USA
- Dominican Young Adults
- Domlife
- Las Casas: Dominicans in Ministry with Native Americans
- LCWR
- McGreal Center/Project OPUS
- Northeast Six
- OPCOMNET
- Parable Conference for Dominican Life and Mission
- Promoters of Justice and Peace
- Promoters of Preaching
- Western Collaboration Conversation

A Conversation on Sustainability *Limitations and Opportunities*

- What cannot be done:
 - Decision-making about personnel or funding—that rests with provinces and congregations
 - Anything final today—since that would take more reflection than is possible over two days
- What can be done:
 - Facilitate a dialogue among elected leaders from provinces and congregations
 - Explore interconnectedness which means that there is some kind of collective responsibility for these entities
 - Hear from entities that are represented

6

IV. Testing Possibilities: Insights from the Conversation about Sustainability

Where We Started
Trends and Theories
Core Values and Scenarios
Hopes by Day-End
Processes and Planning

7

Where We Started: DLC Goals

1. To facilitate an environment in which leadership can engage in meaningful dialogue about issues that affect the future of Dominican life and mission....
 - by utilizing our personnel and financial resources for a sustainable future...
 - by examining the overlap among current structures and projects (such as the entities)

8

Trends and Theories

- Cultural
- Social
- Ecclesial
- Organizational

9

Hopes by Day-End

- Consensus around core values that guide decision-making around sustainability
- Directions that will help in creating greater sustainability
 - Perhaps including possible steps back home that could be taken at congregational or provincial levels
- Next steps for the conversation on sustainability
 - Perhaps including reporting and sharing action steps at next year's DLC

10

Mission: Preach the Gospel Core Values

- **Contemplation:** contemplative way of being and discerning listening, prayer
- **Study/Truth:** inquiry, analysis, integrative, disputatio
- **Communio:** relationship/common good
- **Justice:** interconnectedness of all creation, integrity, right relationship
- **Global consciousness:** international, relationship
- **Itineracy:** detachment, capacity for change, relocation of the heart
- **Collaboration:** inclusive, participative, consultative
- **Sustainability:** ecological, care of creation and stewardship of human and financial resources

11

Reflection

- How do these values resonate within your teams or within your entities?
- Are there any core values absent?
- Might entities be evaluated against these core value criteria for purposes of resourcing (human and financial)? If so, how?

12

Scenarios: Learnings

- We want no part of "as is."
- We must ask critical questions about resources, financial and human (opportunity costs). There are other ways to do business.
- A mission oriented vision around the global family touches a profound desire.
- Letting go of structures and organizations is not to be done lightly.
- And one more learning for *leaders...*

13

Don't forget the bungee!



14

LUNCH

15

I THINK
I'M HAVING
STRESS!



16

Mission and Values Redux

Mission: Preach the Gospel

- **Contemplation:** contemplative way of being and discerning listening, prayer
- **Study/Truth:** inquiry, analysis, integrative, disputatio
- **Communio:** relationship/common good
- **Justice:** interconnectedness of all creation, integrity, right relationship
- **Global consciousness:** international, relationship
- **Itinerancy:** detachment, capacity for change, relocation of the heart
- **Collaboration:** inclusive, participative, consultative
- **Sustainability:** ecological, care of creation and stewardship of human and financial resources

17

Entities Supported by U.S. Dominicans

Women and Men:

- Dominican Ashram
- Dominican Association of Secondary Schools
- Dominican College Preaching Conference
- Dominican High School Preaching Conference
- Dominican Institute of the Arts
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- Dominican Volunteers USA
- Dominican Young Adults
- Domlife
- Las Casas: Dominicans in Ministry with Native Americans
- McGreal Center/Project OPUS
- OPCOMNET
- Parable Conference for Dominican Life and Mission
- Promoters of Justice and Peace
- Promoters of Preaching

Sisters:

- Collaborative Dominican Novitiate
- DLC/DSI Solidarity Fund
- Dominican Sisters International
- Dominican Sisters USA (Federation)

Men:

- Curia

18

Envisioning an Intentional Process

- What critical decisions must be made to ensure sustainability for Dominican entities?
- What components of planning are essential for this process?
- What are the most important things for teams to know about each entity?
 - The original/present purpose
 - Entity's embodiment of core Dominican values
 - Governance structure
 - Programmatic directions/outcomes
 - Personnel
 - Financial support: congregations/provinces, grants etc.

19

BREAK

20

Envisioning an Interconnected Process

- How much ought congregational and provincial teams connect with each other as they carry on the conversation regarding sustainability?
- Would it be useful for your team or entity if the DLC facilitated a process that gathered data from the entities and shared the results with the teams?
- Would it be useful if the teams hold conversations regarding the array of entities, and the outcomes of those conversations were communicated across DLC members?

21

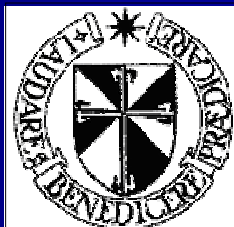
V. Priorities for Sustainability *Collective Sharing*

- Fill in the blank: "Whatever comes, all of these entities need to prepare a _____ or have a _____."
- What other options ought to be explored that have not yet been discussed?
- Is there any other awareness you want to share?

22

VI. Conclusion *Outcomes and Next Steps*

- What are the most significant take-aways?
- What outcomes of this conversation are most promising for our Dominican mission?
- What are the next steps you most see yourself taking in this conversation?



For the Next Generation

The rising hills, the slopes,
of statistics lie before us.
The steep climb of everything, going up, up, as we all go down.

In the next century or the one beyond that, they say,
are valleys, pastures, we can met there in peace if we make it.

To climb these coming crests one word to you, to you and your children:

*stay together
learn the flowers
go light*

Gary Snyder

24

Selected References

- Gerald Arbuckle, SM, *Refounding the Church: Dissent for Leadership* (1993).
- William Bridges, *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change* (2003).
- William D'Antonio, James Davidson, Dean Hoge, and Katherine Meyer, *American Catholics: Gender, Generation, and Commitment* (2001).
- Michael Crosby, OFMCap, Can Religious Life be Prophetic? (2005).
- James Davidson et al., *The Search for Common Ground* (1997).
- Bryan Froehle and Mary Gautier, *Catholicism USA* (2000) and *Global Catholicism* (2003).
- Patricia Killen, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (1994).
- James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, *The Leadership Challenge: How to Keep Getting Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations* (2002).
- Richard McBrien, *Catholicism* (new edition, 1994).
- Thomas O'Meara, OP, *A Theology of Ministry* (revised edition, 1999).
- Everett M. Rogers, *Diffusion of Innovations* (1995/1962).
- Peter Steinfelds, *A People Adrift* (2003).
- Peter Senge, *The Fifth Discipline* (1990).
- Jim Collins, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors* (2005).
- Margaret J. Wheatley, *Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World* (1999/1992); *Turning To One Another* (2002).
- Diana Whitney and Amanda Trosten-Bloom, *The Power of Appreciative Inquiry: A Practical Guide to Positive Change*. Forward by David Coopender (2003).
- ...and countless other sources and colleagues too numerous to mention

25

Selected Internet Sites

- <http://www.aiconsulting.org/conference2004/>
- <http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu/>
- <http://www.culturalcreatives.org>
- <http://www.change-management-toolbook.com/tools/AI.html>
- <http://www.futuresearch.net>
- <http://www.inspiring-results.com/aboutai.html>
- <http://www.learningconnections.org/ai/>
- <http://www.newstories.org>
- <http://www.positivechange.org/appreciative-inquiry.html>
- <http://www.taosinstitute.net/>
- <http://www.sustainer.org>

26