



VOCATION VIBES

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Recently I had the opportunity to drive through New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Wow, what beauty! The contrast of the variety of fall colors was just magnificent. The day we left was rainy and overcast and the day we returned was sunny and bright; yet each of these days had its own beauty.

Just as God has gifted us with a variety of beautiful colors in our creation, our loving Creator has gifted us with a variety of beautiful women in our congregations, and all of their gifts are needed in vocation ministry if the Dominican charism is to continue.

In her acceptance speech as recipient of the 2007 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award, Joan Chittister remarked:

“ ... We all love to remember the small bands of leaders from other lands and other religious cultures who began the communities we’re in now. We tell their stories with pride. But we may be failing to realize that we ourselves are now the new small groups of women leaders who must come from one kind of religious life to begin another kind in a new and different world.”

What will Religious Life of the future look like? Will the Dominican Charism be passed on to the women and men of the future? What is our part in making sure it happens? We have the opportunity “to begin another kind (of religious life) in a new and different world.”

By now you probably have received the letter inviting you to participate in a think tank for the promotion of Dominican Life and Mission. The plan is to gather members and Associates of the Northeast Dominican Six congregations for an overnight meeting to discuss the questions of promoting the Dominican charism now and in the future. This think tank will consider the signs of our times, our commitment to the vowed life and an openness to other more flexible relationships within the Dominican family that will allow Dominican life and mission to flourish now and in the future.

We, the Congregation Vocation Ministers (CVM’s), are excited about this project and encourage you to participate in this endeavor by offering your name as a participant in this think tank, if you are able, or, by offering your support through prayer, that we may be graced with the wisdom to be leaders in sharing the Dominican charism with a new form of religious life in the future.

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