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DIVINE WORD COLLEGE
FORMATION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS
MAY 2016
STATEMENT OF MISSION

The Divine Word College Religious Formation Program aims to foster within each student a life-long commitment to serving God's people, whether that be as a religious-missionary, a religious, a diocesan priest,

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

The goal of all formation and education at Divine Word College is growth by the power of the Holy Spirit into unity with the Incarnate Word of the Father and into missionary ministry in a worldwide, multi-cultural church. This growth is a lifelong task, a shared responsibility to be faced by both the individual and the community. In this way we become capable of carrying out the mission of the church: to be witnesses of the gospel of Christ to all by our personal lives, our community living and our preaching so that Christian communities may be built up. (Based on SVD Constitutions, 501)

Thei

Intercultural Community Formation

Enables women religious to be rooted in their own culture and to cross over to other cultures with respect and sensitivity, while deepening skills for religious community.

...we meet with friendliness and goodwill those among whom we announce the gospel growing into their historical situation, customs and mentality...we make every effort to master the Language of the people and become familiar with their history and culture. Following the principles of the gospel, we respect the customs and habits of the people among whom we work, avoiding every derogatory criticism and comparison. (SVD Constitutions, 120.1 and 2)

The Religious Formation Program invites the religious sister to develop the skills and abilities vital for crossing over to other cultures and for ministering in a multicultural church. The Program first enables her to grow in appreciation of her own culture and to learn about and appreciate other cultures. It then enables her to develop the ability to challenge and critique her own and other cultures, even as she grows in awareness and respect for those cultures. The Program invites the religious sister to continually deepen her commitment to life in religious community.

This process encourages her to undertake greater responsibility for her own growth. Personal sharing once a semester with her Formation Direct

Personal Prayer

Within the context of faith, a personal relationship with the Lord is best developed in prayer. The religious sister exhibits the importance of setting aside time for private prayer, meditation and Scripture.

To facilitate personal prayer, the College provides the main chapel and small private chapels with particular devotional and ethnic themes for places of solitude. Tranquility weekends, where College activities are curtailed, also give the religious sister additional time for prayer or spiritual reading. Quiet time in the evening is also encouraged in the sisters' residence for prayerful environment. The campus ground is also a tranquil sanctuary where she can encounter God in nature. Further prayer resources are available through the library and in the various chapels on campus.

A religious sister who sees the importance of personal prayer in her life will set aside regular times in her daily schedule where she can encounter the Lord in reflection or Sacred Scripture. She uses the various chapels, opportunities for prayer times and spiritual readings provided by the College.

The Formation Director assesses a religious sister's personal prayer by asking about her satisfaction with the nature and quality of her prayer life.

Communal Prayer

The religious sister's attitude toward intellectual development is demonstrated in her cumulative grade point average and its maintenance and improvement. Her Formation Director and the Dean of Students receive a copy of her semester grade report and have access to her daily progress through on-line grade reports.

Commitment to Learning

A successful religious sister completes the Formation Program with a strong commitment to intellectual development needed for life-long learning. To help facilitate a commitment to intellectual growth and life-long learning, the College provides an excellent library, a reading room with a large number of magazines and newspapers, various cultural events, and access to the worldwide web. Every day conversation is also an opportunity for her to improve her learning and communication skills. The Formation Director assists h

A religious sister has the opportunity to participate in Mission Sunday, Lunar New Year, and other cultural celebrations. To offer her an opportunity to develop on-going relationships with families in the local area, the College sponsors the Friends Across Nations Club.

Issues related to understanding and respect are discussed openly in the Dean's Forum and formation groups.

The religious sister demonstrates respect by reaching out to and having close friendships with individuals outside of her own cultural background. She reaches out by engaging in activities such as sharing meals in the dining room, sports activities, mixing in social events, walks and conversations. The Formation Director considers her attendance and genuine participation in cultural events and celebrations.

The religious sister is expected to develop a growing understanding and appreciation of the various and changing roles of women in society and the Church.

Community Participation

In addition to cultural celebrations, the College sponsors work-study/community service where a religious sister has a chance to perform service for the College community; such as working as sacristans, washing dishes, mopping the hall ways, etc. Besides the work-study/community service, the College also sponsors ministries of service to

Critical Appreciation of One's Own Culture

A religious sister becomes more aware of her culture and its assumptions when exposed to a different culture or set of values. She comes to a greater awareness and appreciation of the gifts of her culture, yet must be able to critique aspects of her culture.

The religious sister comes to a greater awareness of her own culture through making presentations, preparing food, sharing in her formation group and participating in Masses celebrated in her native language. Intercultural courses present her with intellectua

Formation Director, she takes a realistic look at her faithfulness in fulfilling various ministries both within and outside the College.

The College provides opportunities for the religious sister to deepen her understanding of ministry. Academic offerings, a program of cultural events, as well as the decor of the College celebrate the universality of the Church's mission, its grounding in all cultures. She has opportunities to interact with Divine Word Missionaries who have served in other parts of the world. She participates in a lively Mission Sunday liturgy and international food

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Evaluation of Religious Sisters in Temporary Vows

At the end of each semester the religious sister, with her Formation Director, will assess her progress based on her personal goals from the five facets of the Women Religious Formation Program. A religious sister will be evaluated on the following areas:

