

TOGETHER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2018

LETTER FROM TOGETHER
PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
SISTER KARINA CONRAD, CDP

ARTICLE ON TOGETHER'S FIRST
FEW DAYS ON CAMPUS AT
CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION



TOGETHER

GETTING TO KNOW KARINA



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share how delighted I am to be the *Together* Program Coordinator.

My name is Karina Conrad and I am a Sister of Divine Providence. I am responsible for coordinating the formation component and the logistics of this collaborative between RFC and CTU.

I was born and raised in Miami, FL and have a Latino background. Some of the perks in living in Chicago are the many opportunities to speak Spanish with other Latinos and access to a variety of cultural cuisines.

I entered the Congregation of Divine Providence in 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA. I earned a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from St. Thomas University (Miami) and completed a dual master's degree in Professional Counseling and Student Affairs from Carlow University (Pittsburgh) this past May.

Previously, I had ministered for many years in Florida doing parish work, religious education, and Latino ministry. More recently in Pittsburgh I served in campus ministry and counseling roles.

I moved to Chicago in August and feel blessed to be working with the RFC staff.

RFC Executive Director, Ellen Dauwer, SC, and Karina Conrad, CDP, *Together* Program Coordinator, meet to discuss program plans.

I ask for your prayers as we launch the *Together's* pilot program. Most especially, please pray for our participants who are working hard studying and mutually supporting one another on their journey. I look forward to connecting with you all through another newsletter later this semester.

If you have any questions or would like to contact me, please feel free to email me at kconrad@relforcon.org.

TOGETHER

**“THE TOGETHER PROGRAM
IS IN FULL SWING!”**

TOGETHER TAKES FLIGHT

The *Together* program is in full swing! Students and faculty at CTU have begun the fall semester with enthusiasm. As the coordinator of the program, I am pleased to welcome the *Together* cohort: Sushma Bodra, SCN, Tracy Kemme, SC, Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM, and Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS.

Tracy and Sushma are living in the CTU residence hall and Mary Therese and Mumbi are participating in the Thursday night formation and other social events but living with their own communities in Chicago.

We welcomed the group the week of August 27 and had an enriching orientation week. Early in the week Paul Michalenko, ST (the program facilitator) led the group in a very helpful session on transitions. Beth Saner, FSPA from the Claret Center presented on spiritual direction and the resources the Claret Center has to offer. Nancy Gerth, SCN was present all week, assisting with facility set up and meals, and serving as a support person.

During the week, the group was invited to lunch with the RFC staff and also attended the CTU orientation day at which students received information on their program of study and learned how CTU works. The group also had a tour of Hyde Park and Chicago. One of the highlights during the week was having a cookout by the lake. The *Together* participants enjoy taking a break from their studies to walk to the lake for prayer, to exercise, or simply to bond with one another.

For Sunday mass, we went to St. James, a lively and multi-ethnic parish, and later enjoyed a delicious brunch at the Valois in Hyde Park.

The *Together* cohort has been meeting every Thursday for a meal, prayer, and ongoing formation. *Together* uses the Thursday Formation evening model in which Thursday evenings are set aside for formation houses to gather locally for input, process, facilitation, theological reflection, interpersonal skills for community living, intercultural capacities, effective communication, and



Sisters Sushma and Tracy attend class on the first day of the fall semester.

other integrative learning. These weekly meetings strengthen the communal bonds among the participants. In addition to Thursday gatherings, Tracy, Sushma, and Karina gather for prayer and have a weekly check-in.

Now that the semester is well underway, the *Together* program looks forward to accepting new applications for the 2019-2020 academic year. For more information on the application process, check out the website. Give us a like on our Facebook page, where regular postings of the *Together* participants and programs are shared. The following are important fall dates:

FIRST SEMESTER A Classes: Tues. Sept. 4 – Thurs. Oct. 11; Reading/Break: Mon. Oct. 15 – Fri. Oct. 19

FIRST SEMESTER B Classes: Mon. Oct. 22 – Thurs. Dec. 6; Thanksgiving recess: Wed. Nov. 21 – Fri. Nov. 23; Final Exams Dec. 10 – 14

Application materials for the fall 2019 cohort are now available!
Visit the Together website:
www.together-formation.com

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Questions? Please reach out.

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