



Adrian Dominican Associate Life

Most Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions have been asked about the Associate Life. The responses may answer your questions and in turn stimulate more questions. All this information will hopefully lead to good decision-making about participation in Adrian Dominican Associate Life.

What is an Adrian Dominican Associate?

An Associate is a woman or man, at least 18 years old, who mutually shares in the life and Mission of the Adrian Dominican Sisters through a non-vowed commitment. Married or single, divorced or widowed, Associates lead independent lives and are economically independent of the Congregation while participating actively in ministry in the Church or in society.

What is the purpose of Associate Life?

The primary purpose of association is to respond to a call to live the Dominican charism. Associate Life provides and fosters opportunities for men and women to share life in Mission with the Adrian Dominican Sisters within a relationship of mutual support for ministry, and to develop and strengthen their commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ.

Do I have to be Catholic?

No, but you must realize that faith in Jesus Christ is the basis of the Mission and Vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, and you must be willing to participate in liturgy and prayer that is rooted in the Catholic tradition.

Why would I want to be an Associate?

The reasons may be different for each individual. However, commonly expressed reasons are to deepen one's spirituality and prayer life; to become or remain informed on peace and justice issues;

to minister at a deeper level; and to become grounded in the Dominican charism.

How do I become an Associate?

Once you express your interest to a Sister or Associate, you will receive an information packet and an application form to complete and return to the Director of Associate Life. She or a representative will interview you and assign a mentor to walk with you through the formation and study process. You will also have opportunities to meet Sisters and Associates in your area through shared prayer, social events, and formal gatherings. Once you are found ready to become an Associate, you will be officially welcomed into Associate Life during a prayer ritual.

Is there a contract?

No, but Associates do sign an agreement of association during their ritual of acceptance. Through this document, they agree to support and participate in the mission of the Adrian Dominicans by sharing faith and prayer; engaging in an active ministry that promotes the Gospel of Jesus Christ; maintaining contact with the Congregation; and striving to live daily life intentionally as a Dominican. This agreement is valid from the time of its signing until the Congregation's next General Chapter, held every six years. After each General Chapter, Associates have the option of renewing their commitment until the next General Chapter.

How do I stay connected with Adrian Dominican Sisters and other Associates?

During this time of study, you will begin to receive email communications from the Associate Life office, including the monthly newsletter. In Florida, we will be forming a Sojourner Group, which is a group of Associates and a few Sisters who will meet regularly (usually monthly) for prayer, study, and fellowship. The Sojourner Group will be formed when the study phase is completed. Associates are encouraged to attend Chapter Assemblies and other gatherings of Sisters and Associates. As Associates you will receive Congregation newsletters and information.

What is my time commitment?

There are no specific time requirements, but Associates are asked to maintain their connection with the Congregation and with individual Sisters and other Associates. They might also be asked to serve on a committee in their own area of expertise and interest.

Are there other areas of collaboration?

Yes. There are several Dominican Congregations who are members of the Dominican Sisters Conference, which have a monthly newsletter and other activities, including a conference every 3 years in Chicago.

How much does it cost to be an Associate?

There are no fees, but Associates are asked to donate \$50 a year to offset the cost of Associate Life, which is funded by the Congregation. You are also welcomed to make additional donations as memorials or bequests through the Development Office.