

Most Frequently Asked Questions about Adrian Dominican Sisters Associate Life

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 the purpose of Associate Life?

The purpose is to provide and foster opportunities for Adrian Dominican Sisters and Associates to share life in mission within a relationship of mutual support for ministry and to develop and strengthen commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ. It is to make a commitment to the Dominican charism.

Who is eligible to be an Associate?

Women and men are eligible to become Associates if they are at least eighteen years of age, share the values and ideals of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, are interested in participating in the Mission of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, and desire to participate actively in ministry in the Church and/or in society.

Must a person be Catholic to be an Associate?

No. However, a person's belief system needs to be compatible with Catholic beliefs, including a belief in Jesus Christ, who is the basis of the Mission Statement and the Vision Statements of the Adrian Dominican Congregation. There are times when liturgy and prayer are focused in the Catholic tradition and the Associate must be willing to participate.

What is required for Association?

The prospective Associate enters into a period of study and reflection in the areas of History of the Adrian Dominican Congregation/Becoming Dominican; Spirituality and Prayer; Dominican Charism; Ecclesial Person; Mission and Ministry; and Contemporary Issues. The study phase is shared with a mentor who helps the prospective Associate to become more familiar with the charism of St. Dominic and the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

Why would a person want to be an Associate?

The most commonly voiced reasons are these: to deepen prayer life and spirituality; to become or remain informed on issues of peace and justice; to enter into ministry on a deeper level; and to learn to respond to the charism of Dominic, especially that of preaching and the search for truth.

Is there a financial commitment or dues involved in the program?

The Adrian Dominican Sisters support Associate Life. The Associates and the Congregation are economically independent of each other. Neither is responsible for the financial obligations of the other. Associates are asked to donate \$50 each year to cover expenses of Associate Life. However, those who cannot make the donation are not excluded. Associates can also make a donation or bequest to the Adrian Dominican Congregation, arranged through the Development Office. That donation is independent of Associate Life.

How would my ministry be changed as an Associate?

Ministry would be approached differently through the influence of the Dominican charism. The change may be an internal or attitudinal change.

Are there other areas of collaboration involved?

Associates from other Dominican Congregations meet through Zoom for retreat and prayer. The Director of Associate Life keeps Associates informed through a monthly newsletter of other opportunities to meet with other Dominican Sisters and Associates.

What is the relationship of the Congregation and Associates?

The Sisters and Associates relate mutually in supportive contacts for shared prayer, reflection, and growth in ministry. Contact with the Congregation may be through participation in a Mission Group, made up of Sisters and Associates; in a Sojourners Group, made up primarily or only of Associates; or through regular contact in one of the sponsored institutions. The Associates receive all Congregation mailings with the exception of financial reports. Associates are identified by an Associate logo, similar to the Adrian Dominican Sisters' logo.

Is there a contractual agreement involved?

No, there is no contract. An Associate does sign an Agreement of Association at the time of formal acceptance. This agreement is made until the next General Chapter of the Sisters.

What is the time commitment required to maintain Association?

The Associate is asked to maintain contact with the Congregation through individual Sisters, Mission Group meetings, Sojourner Groups, annual Chapter Assemblies, times of shared prayers with individual Sisters or local communities, and times of study and prayer in order to facilitate growth in ministry and prayer. There are no specific time requirements; the focus is on the need to maintain a dialogue that sustains the Associate's relationship with the Congregation. There is a retreat each summer for Associates. Associates are required to submit to the Director of Associate Life a yearly summary of their experiences as an Adrian Dominican Associate. This form, called the Annals, is mailed to Associates each spring.

Are there any other areas of involvement for the Associates?

Associates may be asked to serve on a committee/commission of the Congregation. This participation may be in an Associate's area of interest or expertise or an area in which the Associate has a strong belief. The Associates are asked to volunteer for planning committees around specific events within the Congregation. Mission Groups in which associates participate often plan specific projects.

Obligations of the Associate

Associates are asked to keep the Director informed of any address, email, or telephone changes. They are also expected to be in a Sojourner Group or Mission Group, or to be a Prayer Partner.