



Alternative Spring Break 2011-2012

Service Sites

Baltimore, Maryland

The participants in Baltimore have the opportunity to volunteer at many sites around the city working with various issues centering on urban poverty. They work with Catholic Charities at their soup kitchen, Our Daily Bread. Rather than the traditional cafeteria-style, people are seated and served just like at a restaurant, creating a social environment for volunteers to interact with individuals. Participants will also work at Christopher's Place, a rehabilitation center for men who were recently released from prison. They also work at Gallagher Services, a home for mentally disabled adults, and Sarah's House, a homeless shelter for families. All of the work sites are very interactive, leading to much reflection on the causes of and cyclical nature of urban poverty.

Cranks Creek, Kentucky

Cranks Creek is a site that allows participants to immerse themselves in the issue of rural poverty. Working with the Cranks Creek Survival Center located in the Appalachian Mountains students participate in manual labor jobs ranging from dry walling and painting, to building a room from the foundation up. The site also gives participants the opportunity to interact with people living in Cranks and experience their way of life.

Meridian, Mississippi

The trip to Meridian gives students a chance to work with the poverty stricken of the deep south. Participants work hand in hand with Habitat for Humanity, constructing homes for those in need. The tasks can range from laying a foundation to painting, and everything in between. Meridian allows students to share their time and energy with those less fortunate while also experiencing southern culture.

Flint, Michigan

The Flint trip provides participants the opportunity to see how they can make a difference in their own back yard. Starting with a guided tour of the city, which delves into the complex causes of poverty, you then spend the next week learning firsthand about Flint's situation while helping at sites like St. Luke's New Life Center, the Boys and Girls Club, and the North End Soup Kitchen. When the week is over you'll have a much different view of Flint than when you set out, a view that, though it sees the poverty and the emptiness, also sees great hope in the people who work to rekindle the city's former greatness.

New Orleans, Louisiana

New Orleans is a sad example of what happens when urban poverty meets a natural disaster. Five years later, the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina is still evident despite fading from constant media attention. Participants of St. Mary's ASB will join the ranks of hundreds of thousands of volunteers who have gone before to rebuild this spirited and cultural city. Work in New Orleans varies based on the needs of local organizations, ranging from rebuilding a house to planting trees in the ravaged wetlands to working with the city's homeless population.

Charleston, West Virginia

Charleston is a small city entrenched deep in the culture of the Appalachian Mountains. St. Anthony Parish provides a quality education in the Franciscan tradition to children of the community. Participants at this site will mentor and tutor students in the elementary school, as well as help with production of the Parish's annual chocolate Easter egg fundraiser. Culminating the week is a Lenten fish fry, which gives students yet another opportunity to meet the people of Charleston and experience the hospitality for which the state of West Virginia prides itself.

Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville is one of the top cities in the US for the resettlement of refugees. Participants in the Nashville trip will work with Catholic Charities Refugee Services in a variety of ways. For example, participants may hang out with refugee children in after school programs, help organize a donation warehouse, and teach the refugees certain American practices (such as how to use over-the-counter medication). It is an opportunity to experience new cultures, gain an appreciation for the privileges we have in America, and realize that while different, we are all God's children.

Chicago, Illinois

Amate House is a post-graduate volunteer program in Chicago. Amate Volunteers work in schools, non-profit organizations, legal clinics, and health clinics. The ASB group will visit a different service site each day and have the opportunity to tutor school children, hang out with teens in after school programs, visit food pantries, learn about different non-profits and the obstacles the poor and marginalized face in a big city. The Amate House ASB trip is a great opportunity to get a feeling for what it is like to live in community and serve full time. The Amate House Volunteers are very welcoming and willing to answer questions participants have about what it means to do post graduate service.

INTERNATIONAL SITE

El Llano, Dominican Republic **NEW!**

Fundación Mariana San Isidro Labrador (FUMSIL)

Marian Foundation of St. Isidore the Laborer

FUMSIL is composed of Catholic religious and laity committed to community development, assisted by the municipal government in order to help communities with very limited economic resources along the Dominican-Haitian border.

Service work will include assisting with mobile medical clinics, one on one time with children, and other service projects as needed. *Spanish is not required.*

“Embarking on any journey usually involves a lot of changing and growing-two words that describe the trip to the Dominican Republic. We all had such an amazing time: playing with the children, helping install water filters, learning the local lingo...It was an unforgettable trip that I'd recommend to anyone willing to take an adventure outside of their comfort zone!”-Anna Smith, Student Participant