2016 Campus Ministry Domestic Service-Immersion Experiences

Our domestic service-immersion program provides one-week (and one 3-day) experiences that expose participants to people and communities on the margins. They challenge your beliefs and provide ample opportunities for reflection and dialogue. All of our experiences are based on the cornerstones of simplicity, social justice, solidarity and spirituality. Winter Service Week is our introductory service-immersion experience. Preparation includes a kick-off, a morning of local service, a team dinner and final details meeting. Our international service-immersion experiences (separate application) are Campus Ministry’s most advanced and longest trips.

We invite you to:
journey with us, challenge yourself, explore your relationship with God, live simply & seek kinship

Credit is available for these experiences
Every Fall, a 3-credit class is offered called “What Now: Beyond Service-Immersion” (IMR:200) and is available to anyone who has participated in a Campus Ministry Winter Service Week, Alternative Spring Break or International Service-Immersion Experience (or the equivalent). The course directly ties into the insights gained on your service-immersion experience and helps you integrate them more fully once you return. Consider maximizing this experience by registering for this course upon you return.

St. Bernard’s Project: Hurricane Sandy (NYC) (7 open places)
Sunday, January 10-Saturday, January 16, 2016
Participant cost: approximately $300-400
Participant pays for: Travel to NYC (plane, train, car), local transportation in NYC (about $35 for a weekly metro pass) plus a $150 fee to Campus Ministry to cover transportation and food. Student participants will be asked to cover 1-2 meals on their own.
Participants will be living in a church in Brooklyn and serving with St. Bernard’s Project, the community partner Campus Ministry served with in New Orleans post-Katrina. Students will meet in NYC on Sunday, January 10th and serve during the week, departing on Saturday, January 16.
Work will be very hands-on, Habitat-for-Humanity type service.

Erie Benedictine Community (6 open places)
Sunday, January 10-Saturday, January 10, 2016
Participant cost: $200 per person (All inclusive: transportation, housing and food)
Students will work with the Benedictine sisters in a variety of ministries throughout the inner city and within the monastery itself. Volunteer opportunities include education centers for adults and children, a community center for disabled adults, after-school programs for underprivileged children, a children’s art house, soup kitchens, a food bank, and endless opportunities to help the sisters at the Mount. Participants will stay at the monastery and experience the sisters’ daily life of prayer and service. Evenings will be spent reflecting with the sisters on the experiences of the day.

Syracuse Northside CYO (6 open places)
Sunday, January 4-Saturday, January 10, 2016
Participant cost: $225 per person (All inclusive: transportation, housing, and food)
Students will partner with the Catholic Charities CYO in Syracuse, NY. Participants will work within a combination of five CYO programs: refugee resettlement, helping in pre-K classrooms, working in two inclusive classrooms, assisting with an after-school program, and taking part in an evening respite program for disabled teens and refugees. Catholic Charities serves a large refugee community in the Syracuse community. Participants will be working with local Jesuit Volunteers and engage the local JVC community with an evening reflection. Lodging will be at the Sisters of St. Francis’ Spirituality and Nature Center.
Borderlands of Food Justice: A Meeting between Canisius and Upstate Farmworkers
(7 open places)
Wednesday, January 6-Friday, January 8, 2016
Participant cost: $100 (All inclusive: transportation, housing and food)

Canisius students will gain a better understanding of contemporary issues facing farmworkers and ways to be allies during a three-day immersion experience at Liturgia, Rural & Migrant Ministry Inc.'s Worker Education Center in Lyons, NY. Over the three days students will meet year-round farmworkers in the area, act as conversation partners during an ESL class, meet with youth leaders, and discuss their observations with local experts. Weather permitting, we will visit farms to witness winter conditions. Evening reflections will be an important part of the experience.
This is a unique winter Canisius experience, but you can find information and testimonies about our related Alternative Spring Break program here: http://ruralmigrantministry.org/en/youth-entrepreneurship-symposium

Ndakinna Education Center (7 open places)
Sunday, January 10-Saturday, January 16, 2016
Participant cost: $250 per person (All inclusive: transportation, housing and food)

The Ndakinna Education Center is located just outside of historic Saratoga Springs NY. Ndakinna is situated on the Marion F. Bruchac Nature Preserve and is a short drive away from the Adirondack State Park. Students at Ndakinna have a chance to both volunteer their time and gain a better appreciation for the region’s rich cultural and natural histories.
Learning experiences at Ndakinna can include Northeast Native American history and culture, nature awareness, land stewardship, basic wilderness survival and animal tracking to team building and youth programming facilitation. Storytelling is usually an essential part of all Ndakinna programming. Field trips to local wilderness areas, historical landmarks, as well as to other cultural sites, including to the Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community in Fonda, NY are also available. Time at Ndakinna is focused on immersive education with some service elements. Work options can include trail construction and maintenance, exhibit creation, facility upkeep, maple sugar collection, and office projects.

Application Information
On or before Wednesday, October 14:
All applications are due by 5pm in Campus Ministry (OM 207).
Criteria for Acceptance:
- Proper motivation and interest exemplified in behavior and application essays
- Willingness to commit to and live the four cornerstones of simple living, solidarity, spirituality, and social justice
- Commitment to participating in nightly reflection
- Commitment to participating in all of the preparatory meetings

Financial obligations for Domestic Service-Immersion Experiences:
On or before Monday, November 16: All participants are asked to put a $100 deposit down to hold their spots (unless students are participating in the letter writing campaign*).
* A letter writing campaign will be offered as a fundraiser to all participants!
On or before Monday, December 7: All remaining money for those attending Winter Service Week is due to Campus Ministry by 5pm (in OM 207).

Questions: Contact Sarah Signorino at signoris@canisius.edu or 716-888-2424