



All Things Ignatian



Education

Students are offered opportunities to learn about the fundamentals of Catholic Social Teaching including issues surrounding human dignity, community and the common good, human rights, the preferential option for the poor, dignity and rights of workers, and the promotion of peace.

Justice Walking helps students integrate what they are learning in their academic, social, and spiritual lives. This integration may lead to personal and communal growth.



Justice Walking

“Justice Walking” is a comprehensive, faith-based program that invites students along with two adult staff members to journey together throughout the academic year to grow in the spirituality of justice. Students do not have to embrace a particular faith perspective to participate in the program, but should be open to faith as an impetus for just living. The program invites students to go deeper in their faith and to explore social justice through understanding, experience, compassion, and education. It uses the primary image of “border crossing” to invite students to leave their comfort zones and learn to live responsibly and compassionately.

Service Each year, the theme of Justice Walking is border-crossing, but the topic changes. Past topics have included immigration, education, and sustainability. Past service experiences have included hospice accompaniment, ESL and GED tutoring, and planting a garden at an Omaha alternative school.

This coming academic year the theme will focus on poverty. The service will once again be Hospice Care however, the group will be engaged in this service the entire year. We have found that hospice ministry, being present to a dying person, offers students an experience of vulnerability that many have not experienced in their life. It is this vulnerability that opens students to a deeper level of sharing. Their relationship with their patients affect the students and in turn, the student’s accompaniment affect their patients. As indicated in the following reflections this shared experience has broader implications in the CU and Omaha Community. These students are truly living out Ignatian values.

I have learned so much from my time volunteering. I look forward to my one hour a week of uninterrupted quality time. This was a time for me to be fully present to another person. In being present in and intentional about my time with each lady, I was able to see God in things they said and did. While I was attempting to show my goodness through volunteering, they provided their goodness through their stories and their love. I know the seven ladies at Angel's Touch appreciated my company, even if they could not remember me. I was able to be a companion and serve them. But upon reflection back on my past 3 months as a hospice volunteer, I now realize I was not the one serving, but rather the one being served. Laura Shircliff, CU Junior

We gave your reflection to the ladies who work at Angel's Touch yesterday - and they cried and were extremely touched and inspired by your reflection. Your final statement about being the one served made them reflect on the truth in that statement for their own work every day - that they are blessed beyond measure by the people they serve. Thank you for that gift - it will have ripple effects beyond your imagination!

Kelly Keller, Volunteer Coordinator for AseraCare Hospice

Immersion experiences cultivate critical reflection and engender compassionate responses: Loyola-Chicago’s “Green” retreat center to learn about sustainability and Arizona border experience to learn about immigration are two such immersions experienced by CU students.



Reflection and Faith-Sharing

on Gospel justice, the service of hospice or other service opportunities their own life experiences, as well as prayer, both personal and communal are part of a students experience.



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