



## *The Cortina Living Learning Community*

*Developing Students as “Liberation Whatever’s”*

### ***Mission***

The Cortina Community is a sophomore living learning community that prepares students to connect their passion for justice with their future goals by challenging them to investigate social inequalities and difficult realities through service, examination of faith, purposeful learning, and living in community.

### ***Fr. Jon Cortina, SJ***

The Cortina Community is named after Fr. Jon Cortina, SJ. Fr. Cortina was a talented engineer who worked for NASA and taught at the University of Central America. He worked in Guarjila, El Salvador during and after the civil war and practiced “liberation engineering” whereby he used his engineering skills to build houses, bridges, and a system of aqueducts.

Fr. Cortina understood that transformative faith must have an impact on day-to-day life and be concerned with that which gives and takes away dignity. People are called to use their talent in ways that transform the world, and to be a “liberation whatever.”

### ***Community***

Sophomores live together on several floors in Heider Hall during their sophomore year. Living in intentional community allows sophomores to continue the discussions that begin in classes, service, and Formation.



### ***Classes***

Students take one class per semester together during their sophomore year. Classes that have been offered in the past include Philosophical Ethics, Theological Ethics, and Social Justice in the Old Testament. Faculty who teach these courses challenge students to connect course content with weekly service experiences.

### ***Formation***

Formation is a weekly opportunity for the Cortina Community to gather, learn about, and discuss different social justice topics through guest speakers, documentaries, and activities. Students are challenged to consider how they might live in light of this knowledge.

### ***Weekly Service***

Juniors and seniors lead small groups of sophomores in 3 hours of service each week. Students serve at the same site for an entire semester so they can build relationships and learn from the people they interact with. Each week after service, students reflect on their experiences in small groups.

*Division of Student Life | Department of Residential Life*

