Service and Justice Immersion Experience

Service and Justice Immersion Experiences are opportunities for students to spend more time with a specific community whether abroad, on the US / Mexico border or within the United States. Service and justice immersion is about going deep…real deep. It is about immersing oneself in culture, language, customs, poverty, issues of access, work, reflection, and so much more. Our spring and summer immersion programs and the quarterly Urban Plunges are centered around five pillars—Education, Service, Spirituality, Community, and Social Justice. The goals of the immersion programs are modeled on the tenants of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps program. Participants, therefore, are called to:

- Engage in direct service for and with the people of the community we are visiting;
- Live simply, while in community with fellow students and people of the local community;
- Reflect on social justice and Catholic Social Teaching issues pertinent to the community we are visiting; and
- Reflect through prayer at the end of each day as a means of noticing where and how God was acting throughout the day, and, further, how God invites us to respond.

Service and Justice Immersion Experiences 2018-2019

- **Los Angeles Weekend Urban Plunge**
  - This service and justice immersion program is designed to introduce students to the realities of homelessness in Los Angeles, specifically, the area in Downtown Los Angeles known as Skid Row. Participants will perform various service duties such as preparing meals, sharing meals and engaging in conversations with many of the homeless at one of the selected service sites (identified below).
    - [https://www.stfranciscenterla.org/](https://www.stfranciscenterla.org/).
  - For more information, contact Mr. John Ahearn at jhearn@loyolahs.edu.
  - Dates: October 19, 20, 21, 2018 and December 30, 1, 2, 2018 (Two other Plunges will be scheduled for spring, 2019—Dates, TBD). Participants will travel by van after school on Friday and will return to LHS by Sunday afternoon.

- **Ignatian Family Teach in for Justice – Washington, DC**
  - Sponsored by the Ignatian Family Network, this annual program serves as a teach in on current and historical social justice issues as well as a forum to develop attitudes and skills for advocating on behalf of more just political, social and legislative action. This forum is the largest social justice program of its kind focused on youth enrolled in Jesuit educational institutions across the US, Canada with 2,200 delegates from
nearly all 100 Jesuit high school and universities represented. Nationally and Internationally known speakers; high school and college presenters. Advocacy meetings with members of Congress from California on current issues. Monuments and Capitol tours.

- Contact Dr. Jesse Rodriguez at jrodriguez@loyolahs.edu or Andrew Mazur at amazur@loyolahs.edu
- Dates: November 2 – 6, 2018
  https://ignatiansolidarity.net/
  https://ignatiansolidarity.net/iftj/

- Kino Border Immersion:
  - This service and justice immersion program is designed to introduce students to the complexities of immigration and life along the US/Mexico Border. In collaboration with the Kino Border Initiative, students will provide humanitarian support to recently deported migrants in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico while listening to the stories of migrants and attempting to critically understand our immigration system, the deportation process and the ways we can serve as advocates for humane immigrant reform. Students reside in the Jesuit guest house on the Arizona side of the border.
  - Contact Dr. Rodriguez for more information at jrodriguez@loyolahs.edu and visit https://www.kinoborderinitiative.org/.
  - Dates: November 21-25, 2018 (Alternative Thanksgiving Immersion). Participants will travel by air to Tucson and depart Wednesday afternoon with a Sunday afternoon return.

- Baja House Builds - Weekends
  - This service and justice immersion program is sponsored by the Loyola Father’s Club in collaboration with Baja Christian Ministries. This program is designed to build homes in the region of Tecate, Mexico for designated families.
  - Contact Mrs. Moran for more information at amoran@loyolahs.edu
  - Dates: December 26-27 and 28-29, 2018 (Alternative Christmas Immersion). Participants will travel by car / van to Tecate, Mexico. Baja Builds are also going to be scheduled for the spring (dates TBD in April and June).

- Costa Rica Service, Environmental and Cultural Immersions – April and July
  - These are two environmentally service focused programs. Pairs of students stay with host families in small communities. Spanish preferred, but not required. Ecological restoration and tutoring elementary school children. Cultural and environmental touring; urban and rural destinations – hiking, rafting and zip lining.
  - Dates: April 19 – 28 and July 20 – 28, 2019
  - Contact Tom Zeko @ tzeko@loyolahs.edu
  - https://www.crossroadstravel.org/loyola.html
10th Annual Intercambio - Student Exchange Program—Argentina-Uruguay

- This is a six-week immersion / student exchange program with our Jesuit secondary schools in Buenos Aires, Argentina as well as Tacuarembo and Montevideo, Uruguay. Students participating in this summer program will be required to host a student from one of the partnering colegios during February / March. In exchange, the student will host a Cub when he travels in the summer. Students need to be Spanish competent either as native speakers or via Spanish classes.
- Contact Ms. Ana de Castro for more information at adecastro@loyolahs.edu.

Taos, New Mexico - Native American Nation - Service and Cultural Immersion

- This service and cultural immersion will be conducted with the native American peoples on their historic pueblo outside Taos, NM. Assist youngsters and adults with physical, social and educational needs. Will assist local tribe leaders and youth with agricultural and educational projects. Outdoor adventures in the desert. There will be time devoted to learning about native cultural attitudes and practices of drumming, dancing, arts and crafts making.
- Contact Tom Zeko at tzeko@loyolahs.edu
- [https://www.crossroadstravel.org/loyola.html](https://www.crossroadstravel.org/loyola.html)

Missoula, Montana – Native American Nation – Service and Cultural Immersion

- This service and cultural immersion will be conducted in the Missoula Valley where the Jesuits serve the pastoral, social and educational needs of the native American peoples from various tribes in the area. Will assist the local youth and adults with agricultural, environmental and educational projects. Cultural activities related to dance, music, arts and crafts; hiking

Puerto Rico Summer Immersion – Las Marias & San Juan

- This eight to nine-day summer service and culture immersion is designed to provide environmental and community housing hurricane relief for the communities of Puerto Rico. Spanish helpful, but not required.
- Contact Mr. Thomas Zeko for more information at tzeko@loyolahs.edu.
- Dates: June 9 – 19, 2019
- [https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2017/09/22/hurricane-maria-jesuits/](https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2017/09/22/hurricane-maria-jesuits/).
- [https://walkingtree.org/](https://walkingtree.org/)

Ecuador Summer Immersion – Quito

- This eight to nine-day summer service and culture immersion offered in conjunction with the Jesuits’ Working Boys Center designed to provide tutorial assistance, home building and repair projects with the WBC families. Spanish fluency helpful, but not required.
- Tours of historic, cultural and natural sites.
• Contact Mr. Michael Shawver for more information at mshawver@loyolahs.edu or Tom Zeko at tzeko@loyolahs.edu.
• Dates: June 9 – 18, 2019

➤ Los Angeles Summer Urban Plunge – Five days
• Much like the weekend plunge, this service and justice immersion program is a week-long experience designed to introduce students to the realities of homelessness in Los Angeles, specifically, the area in Downtown Los Angeles known as Skid Row. Participants will perform various service duties such as preparing meals, sharing meals and engaging in conversations with many of the homeless at one of the selected service sites (identified below).
  - https://www.stfranciscenterla.org/.
• For more information, contact Mr. John Ahearn at jhearn@loyolahs.edu.

➤ San Francisco Summer Urban Plunge – Six days
• Much like the Los Angeles Summer Urban Plunge, this service and justice immersion program is a week-long experience designed to introduce students to the realities of homelessness in San Francisco’s, specifically, the area in Downtown San Francisco known as the Tenderloin District.
• Participants will perform various service duties such as preparing meals, sharing meals and engaging in conversations with many of the homeless at one of the selected service sites (identified below).
• Offered in partnership with St. Anthony Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul Society and various social service agencies of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.
• For more information, contact Mr. Adam Gonzalez at agonzalez@loyolahs.edu.
• Dates: June 9 – 14 and July 20 – 26, 2019.

➤ France – Lourdes
• In cooperation and under the sponsorship of the Knights of Malta, Loyola students will serve the milades seeking a physical, emotional and spiritual healing at the famous cure shrine. This service trip has an intense spiritual dimension since all service is with seriously ill patients seeking miraculous cures at this internationally recognized shrine.
• Open only to rising seniors (2020), the student group is coed and from various schools in the Western US.
• Dates: Last week of June, 2019
• For more information, contact Tom Zeko at tzeko@loyolahs.edu.
Detroit, Michigan

- This weeklong urban service and cultural immersion will be focused in a major rust-belt city of the Midwest USA. Once the automaker capital of the world, the Motor City fell on hard times loosing most of its industrial base and over one half of its population. The City is now on the rebound, rebuild and refinancing itself featuring music, food and public art and attracting new corporate business.

- This Jesuit educational and pastoral works of Detroit have agreed to partner with Loyola to produce this program.

- Direct service to the homeless through the Pope Francis Center at the Jesuit parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in downtown Detroit, the Capuchin Soup Kitchens and Pantry in Detroit and social service centers operated by the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

- Conversations with various civic and church leaders about the nature of the challenges and solutions underway. Service activities will be assisting with the rebuild and renovation of some communities in and around the downtown and university; urban gardening and tutoring. Cultural tours and visits to the Motown Museum, other museums and public art installations. Possible side tour to Flint to examine the issues around the lack of potable water there for over two years.

- Dates: July 8 – 16 or July 22 – 30, 2019.

- For information, contact Jamal Adams at jadams@loyolahs.edu.