Caminos
Summer Service and Justice Immersion Program

The Path of Jesus Began on the Peripheries, it Goes from the Poor and With the Poor, Towards Others

--Pope Francis, Kangemi Slum in Nairobi, Kenya
AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE Caminos SERVICE AND JUSTICE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Caminos Service and Justice Immersion Program is designed for students to enter into the shoes of Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius walked all over Spain and between Spain and Paris several times over; he never stopped being a man on the move. Our immersion programs offer students an opportunity to travel to other parts of our city, state, country, and the world. Immersions provide students with opportunities to expand their learning and personal development beyond the classroom. Centered around five pillars—Education, Service, Spirituality, Community, and Social Justice, the goals of the immersion program 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do the Immersion Programs take place?

- Usually, immersion experiences take place during vacation periods and weekends throughout the school year.

Where do the Immersion Programs take place?

- Currently, they include the following programs:
  
  - International – one to four weeks in duration
    - Argentina and Uruguay for Intercambio/Exchange: 4 weeks
    - Quito, Ecuador: 7 days
    - Baja Build – weekend projects in Mexico
  
  - Domestic Immersion Programs – weekend and weeklong programs
    - Los Angeles, California – weeklong program Urban Plunge
    - Los Angeles, California – weekend program Urban Plunge
    - Washington, DC – [https://ignatiansolidarity.net/iftj/](https://ignatiansolidarity.net/iftj/). Five-day program
    - Civil Rights in the South [https://civilrightstrail.com/](https://civilrightstrail.com/). Seven-day program

Who is permitted to participate in the Immersion Programs?

- Sophomores and Juniors. International trips are open only for juniors (rising seniors and, if reviewed, rising juniors); domestic trips are open for both sophomores and juniors.
What will students do while on Immersion?

- Our service immersion program offers sophomores juniors an opportunity to put their faith into action in a very challenging and real way. The service experiences are about responding to the Gospel call to serve those in need, while questioning the reasons behind why people are in need. While each immersion has its own unique slant, they all encourage participants to learn about living in solidarity with people and experiencing a different way of living, often without many material possessions.

- Students may be building homes, cleaning, tutoring, environmental restoration and preservation, providing humanitarian aid, cleaning, learning about laws / policies that impact marginalized groups, learning advocacy methods.

Will students receive course credit for participating in an Immersion Program?

- No. Only service hour credit, and only for sophomore and junior service. Not for the Senior Service Project.

What does it cost to participate in an Immersion Program?

- All prices vary given on distance and time-away. Immersions may cost anywhere between $500.00 and $4000.00, depending on the length of the immersion. This information will be listed on the application.
- Each trip will have an on-line payment platform / link.

Is financial aid available for students who currently qualify for tuition assistance and are in good standing with the school?

- Yes, partial financial aid is available for students who currently qualify for tuition assistance and are in good standing with the school.
- An application for financial assistance will be submitted to the Director, Center for Service and Justice and will be reviewed by the leadership team of the center before making any recommendations to the leadership of the school.
- Financial assistance will only be provided once during the student’s time at Loyola in an effort to provide access to our immersions for other students.

Is there an application to participate in an Immersion Program?

- Yes. A Pre-Registration Form is the first step. This determines the program the candidate is interested in and the commitment level. Once this has been reviewed, a formal application is submitted to the Immersion Coordinator for that specific immersion program.

Are payment plans allowed?

- Yes. Payment plans are welcome and payment may be accepted using cash, credit card or check.
- Payments must be submitted to our Accounting Office Attention Ms. Angelica Young. All payments must include the name of the Immersion (location) and student name and ID.

Are refunds given should travel plans change?

- Yes. Refunds will be granted using a refund schedule to determine the amount of refund granted.
  - Six Months Before Immersion: 100% Refund for Travel
  - Four Months Before Immersion: Three-Quarter Refund for Travel
  - Two Months Before Immersion: 50% Refund for Travel
  - One Month Before Travel: No Refund for Travel
Where do students stay while on an Immersion experience?

- Students stay in a variety of settings depending on the immersion experience. This may range from dormitories on a school campus, a separate dorm setting in a homeless shelter, a hotel, with a host family, in a gym, or in residential housing (parish / church / center).

Should students bring spending money?

- We recommend that students bring some spending money. This will be shared at each of the immersion-specific meetings.

What forms of ID are required?

- All students must possess a valid US Passport to travel abroad and a California ID that allows for domestic flights.

Will the school provide travel insurance?

- No. The school will not provide travel insurance, but parents / guardians may choose to purchase this and add the amount to the overall program cost.

What are the school’s expectations in terms of behavior / code of conduct?

- This is a school-sponsored activity. Therefore, the code of conduct stipulated in our Parent / Guardian-Student Handbook applies. Dress code and grooming will, however, differ due to the type of work students will be engaged in.

Will I be able to speak with my son during the immersion experience?

- Yes, but use of cell phones are severely restricted during most of the immersion experience as a way to allow the students to “immerse” themselves without distractions. However, time is set aside to speak with friends and family. Please know that charges for long-distance calls (international calling) will be paid for by the student.

When does the process begin and how do I apply?

- The process begins in December. We will offer informational meetings on each of the trips after the Christmas break.

When do the immersions take place?

- Service immersion are scheduled for April/Easter vacation, June/July – before Summer School and after Summer School, over 4th of July Holiday extended weekend, during December/Christmas vacation and at other strategic dates so as to minimize loss of class time for students. Please check your calendar for date conflicts in advance (SAT, Summer School, family trips).

Does participating in an immersion fulfill my service requirements?

- Yes! Sophomore and junior requirements. Not for the Senior Service Project.

How many students are selected for the service immersion teams?

- Immersions groups are composed of 8-10 students, depending on the Immersion trip.
Who are the chaperones?

- Each immersion has two Loyola faculty or staff members who act as the immersion leaders and chaperones.

What are you looking for in immersion participants?

- The ideal participant is someone who is compassionate, empathetic, open to growth, hard-working, flexible, spiritual (it is not a requirement that you are Catholic!), reflective and able to reflect with his peers, concerned about social justice, and passionate about instigating change in our world, while learning about and serving a specific population of people. Immersions require a lot of work and energy before, during and after, and they are not for everyone! That being said, they are life-altering experiences for most participants. Students come back feeling enriched, renewed, and challenged to continue with the work they did.

Application Procedures

- A general application for the immersion programs will be made available on December 1 via Canvas.

Summer Service and Justice Immersion 2020

- Los Angeles Week-Long 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. Students will spend a week at Union Rescue Mission. This is open to rising juniors and rising seniors. The cost is 500.00. Dates of Plunges are scheduled for June 16-21 15-20 and July 7-12 (these may be subject to change per our coordinator’s schedule—information on this plunge will be communicated to those that reserve their position). Space is limited to 8 students. For more information please see Dr. Rodriguez in the Community Service Center. Registration will open on December 1.

- 12th Annual Intercambio - Student Exchange Program—Argentina-Uruguay
  - This is a 4-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. The cost is 4000.00 per person. Date for the Immersion has not been set. Space is limited to 10 rising juniors / seniors (five from each grade-level). For more information please see Ms. Ana de Castro (adecastro@loyolahs.edu). Registration will open on December 1 on-line—see Community Service Page on www.loyolahs.edu.

- 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. The cost is 2200.00 per person. Dates for the Immersion are June 13-20, 2020. Space is limited to 5 rising juniors and 5 rising seniors (five from each grade-level). For more information please see Mr. Michael Shawver (mschwver@loyolahs.edu). Registration will open on December 1 on-line—see Community Service Page on www.loyolahs.edu.

- (New) Jerusalem Farm, Kansas City, Missouri
  - School groups are invited to spend their summer-time at the farm. Their service-retreat is focused around four cornerstones. Through these, students will experience discussions and hands-on work
related to social justice concerns, sustainability, and direct service with our neighbors. The cost is 800.00 per person. Dates for the six-day Immersion are July 12-18, 2020. Space is limited to 4 rising juniors and 4 rising seniors (four from each grade-level or until filled). For more information please see Dr. Rodriguez. Registration will open on December 1 on-line—see Community Service Page on www.loyolahs.edu.

- http://www.jerusalemfarm.org

- (New) Oscar Romero Center, Camden, New Jersey
  - The Urban Challenge Program is an urban, service-learning, immersion experience rooted in the Catholic Faith Tradition. Offering a point of access to the lives and stories of the people of Camden, NJ, and its surrounding communities, the Urban Challenge Program is a unique educational and retreat opportunity that serves mainly high school and college-aged students. The cost is 800.00 per person. Dates for the seven-day Immersion are June 14-20, 2020. Space is limited to 4 rising juniors and 4 rising seniors (four from each grade-level). For more information please see Dr. Rodriguez. Registration will open on December 1 on-line—see Community Service Page on www.loyolahs.edu.
  - http://romero-center.org/urban-challenge

- (New) Encuentro Project, El Paso, Texas
  - The Encuentro Project offers programming and lodging for immersion and encounter experiences in the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez border region which include: Direct work with asylum seekers, migrant, immigrant and/or refugee persons; education in Catholic Social Teaching and on border/migrant realities and projects through site visits; evening reflection and spiritual accompaniment. The Encuentro Project is a collaborative and inter-congregational project involving the Jesuits, the Marist Brothers, and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family. Lay persons and the Hope Border Institute will form part of the team. The cost is 800.00 per person. Dates for the seven-day Immersion have not been set. Space is limited to 8 rising seniors only. For more information please see Dr. Rodriguez.

- (New) Civil Rights in the South
  - The Civil Rights in the South is part of a three-year project that will explore Civil Rights movements in the South, in Central California with the United Farmworkers, and Red Cloud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The Civil Rights in the South will provide students with an opportunity to journey from Atlanta to Birmingham to Memphis and then onto Nashville—places central to the Civil Rights Movements in the South. The cost is 800.00 per person. Dates for the seven-day Immersion are June 13-20, 2020. Space is limited to 8 rising seniors only. For more information please see Mr. Jamal Adams. Registration will open on December 1 on-line—see Community Service Page on www.loyolahs.edu.
  - https://civilrightstrail.com/
2019-2020 Service-Immersion Trip Application

Trip Selection

Please indicate the mission trip that you’d like to participate in.

Summer Service and Justice Immersion 2020

- Los Angeles Week-Long Urban Plunge
- Ecuador Summer Immersion – Quito
- Intercambio (Argentina)
- (New) Jerusalem Farm, Kansas City, Missouri
- (New) Oscar Romero Center, Camden, New Jersey
- (New) Encuentro Project, El Paso, Texas
- (New) Civil Rights in the South (Atlanta / Alabama / Tennessee

Travel Information Required

You must include a copy of your current passport. Please keep in mind that with this application you should check if your Passport will expire within SIX (6) MONTHS of the trip.

- Full Legal Name on Passport: ________________________________
- Student ID Number: ________________________________
- Passport Number: ________________________________
- Passport Country: ________________________________
- Birthdate: ________________________________
- Cell Phone: ________________________________
**Additional Items Needed as Part of the Application**

For Students: Please type your answers (1-paragraph each) on a separate sheet.

a. Why would you like to participate in this service immersion trip? List all of your reasons.

b. What will you bring to this trip?

c. What have you done to prepare for this immersion (e.g., participate in a weekend Urban Plunge, other)?

d. What do you hope to gain from this experience and how will you “bring it back” to Loyola?

e. Describe the ways your understanding of spirituality and community will assist you in preparing you for an immersion experience with people living in the proposed country/city you will be serving?

f. Your life at Loyola High School is important and we will be checking on your current status in all areas of this life here at LHS—academics, discipline, counseling, etc. Is there anything that you would like us to know in any of these areas?

For Parents / Guardians: Please type your answer (1-paragraph each) on a separate sheet.

a. Why do you want your son to participate in this trip?

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I understand that this Service-Immersion Trip is service and justice-based, all school rules apply, and I approve of my son applying. (Sign below.)

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________

Student Name: ________________________________

Student Signature: ________________________________

Signature Date: ________________________________

**Submission of Materials**

Please submit all materials in a manila envelope with a $200.00 Deposit by December 20, 2019. Envelope must be labeled

- Summer 2020 Immersion Program / Attention Dr. Rodriguez