

Walk in in My Shoes: Siena Spring Break Washington, DC 2016

As a participant on the Siena Spring Break Poverty Awareness Service Trip, the following guiding principles and goals will shape the program:

Guiding Principles

1. “The greatness of St. Francis of Assisi was his ability to see the poor with the eyes of the poor, allowing him thusly, to discover the values of the poor.” (Build with Living Stones, Unit 11, pg. 9) Franciscans in recent years have embraced a preferential option for the poor. This concept, from liberation theology, fundamentally means that Franciscans opt to see reality, and particularly economic reality, from the perspective of the poor. The guiding principles for our Spring Break Poverty Awareness Trip to Washington, DC is to provide students with experiences that will place them in direct contact with the poor; looking at life through their eyes, seeing reality from their vantage point, and interpreting the signs of the times as they might.
2. We value and seek a deeper understanding of the perspectives of people working at the grassroots level for social change, and those who shape the local church in Washington, DC. We recognize that these individuals and their realities are not often visited on other Spring Break programs or heard from in the wider media. We endeavor to provide them with a means to make their lives and work known to our friends and family at home.
3. Our philosophy is based on the "Pastoral Circle": See/Judge/Act Model and our approach is to engage in the Ministry of Presence, both of which emphasize group learning and reflection. Through daily times of reflection, participants will be given an opportunity to share their observations, reactions and analysis their experiences with other participants on the trip.

Goals

1. **Development of Social Awareness/Service:** To build intellectual, emotional, spiritual and physical awareness of the root causes and realities of poverty in our nation’s capital and work with local agencies that serve the poor.
 - A welcoming orientation outlining the difference between the ministry of presence and the ministry of service, various presentations including one on poverty at SOME, and a workshop on advocating for change on the government level.
 - Service to the poor elderly in Ward 7 (South East Washington, DC). Students will visit with senior citizens at a senior center as well as visit with homebound seniors who live in SRO housing above the center.
 - Visit the homeless on the street with the Capitol Hill Group Ministries. Engage in a ministry of presence and provide for the needs of the homeless by distributing food, water, and other essentials items they have identified as needs.
 - Spend the day at the Capital Area Food Bank boxing food that will be distributed to Banks 700 partner agencies.
2. **Grow in faith with a particular understanding of Franciscan Charism of The Ministry of Presence:** Students will be engaged in a faith-based mission of service and learning so as to advance their spiritual growth and a better understanding of the Church’s fundamental option for the poor.

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- Students will learn how importance of the ministry of presence to personal spiritual growth its significance in sharing our faith with others.
 - Students will participate and get a chance to lead evening prayer and be expose to various forms of prayers.
 - Students will also participate in daily reflection using the Pastoral Circle to help develop their critical thinking skills so as to better appreciate God's work in their lives and the lives of those they meet, and to better discern their responsibility as Christians in building the kingdom of God on earth.
 - Students will acquire an understanding of the value of serving others through good works and through sharing themselves and their lives with the people they meet. Particular emphasis will be placed on the value of "being" with the people as well as doing for the people (aka the ministry of presence), and students will learn why this is an important component of any ministry.
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3. **Mission Advocacy:** Students will be able to effectively share about their mission experience and the social realities they will experience in Washington, DC when they are back in their own communities upon returning home.
 - Students will be given a workshop on how to advocate for change on the governmental level. Students will then get an opportunity to visit the office of the congressperson who represents the district where they go to school and possibly their state senators to discuss pertinent issues affecting the poor in congress.
 4. **Commitment to Service:** Students will deepen their commitment to service and be inspired to respond to the needs of God's people in their home communities.
 - The Spring Break Poverty Awareness Trip will end with a commissioning Mass, whereby students will be commissioned to go out and engage in a ministry of their choice in their local community so as to put to use the advocacy, knowledge, and new awareness they have acquired while visiting Washington, DC.

Scheduling

1. **Morning Prayer/Prep for Days activities:** Morning Prayer will be led by Br. Paul O'Keeffe, trip coordinator. After prayer there will be a brief overview of the day's activities. This will include an explanation of where we will be going, what we will be doing, what to bring/not to bring, as well as the objectives for this day's activities.
2. **Evening Prayer:** Students will be responsible for leading Evening Prayer one time during the mission experience. This can be done individually or in groups. Suggestions for evening prayer will be presented in the orientation on Sunday evening.
3. **Reflections, debriefs, social analysis:** Either before or after evening prayer, a deliberate time of reflection and debrief will led by Br. Paul. This provides the opportunity for all participants' (both students and chaperones) to reflect on the experiences of the day including their observations, what touched them, and what they learned during the day. Reflection

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time is one of the most important parts of each day.

4. **Workshops:** Students will be given three (3) educational workshops on various topics which will help contextualize and form purposeful reflective judgment in the following areas: Ministry of Presence and the Ministry of Service, The Social Analysis Process, How to be advocate for change.
5. **Cultural Activities:** Students will have a day to explore the National Mall and Smithsonian Museums, as well as other attractions they wish to visit in Washington, DC. The trip will end with a festive meal at a popular eatery in Washington, DC.
6. **Student Learning Component:**
 - Daily guided reflection activities.
 - Students will learn about poverty in our nation's capital.
 - The trip will conclude with closing activities and mass.

Logistics

1. **Room and Board:** Students and chaperones will stay at a rented house located at 401 Missouri Ave NW, Washington DC 20011. Students and chaperones will be responsible for purchasing and preparing their own meals. Trip coordinator, Br. Paul O'Keeffe will provide dinner on the day of arrival. Students and/or their school will be responsible for payment of dinner out on the last night of the trip.
2. **Transportation:** Students and their chaperones will be responsible for their own transport to and from Washington, DC as well as while in the city. Br. Paul will accompany the groups to each ministry site as will chaperones from each school (and to any other activity related to their visit that would require a chaperone.)

Community Engagement

1. **Capitol Hill Group Ministry's** Street Outreach Services works to build personal relationships with the chronically homeless individuals of Ward 6. Students will accompany a Outreach specialist in a walking tour to visit the homeless and provide them with food and fellowship.
2. **SOME** (So Others Might Eat) Students will visit with homebound elderly in Ward 7 (South East Washington, DC). Work in small groups, students will visit senior citizens at the center's day program and help some of them clean up their homes on the upper floors.

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3. **Capital Area Food Bank:** Students will spend the day packing and/or sorting, and/or distributing food to clients of the food bank.
4. **Holy Name Province JPIC Office:** Students will be given a workshop on how they can become advocates for change with their local and state governments. After this workshop, students will be accompanied to their Capital Hill where they will meet their state representatives and get a chance to discuss the issues they have been exposed to while visiting DC.

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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27
7:00	Travel to Washington, DC	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Sleep in	Breakfast	Sleep in
		Prayer	Prayer	Prayer	Breakfast	Free Time	Breakfast
8:00		Workshop 1	Prepare for day	Prepare for day	Prayer	Mass	Prayer
		Travel	Travel to ministry	Travel to ministry	Prepare for day	Closing Mass ceremony	Travel Home
9:00			SOME Kuehner Place Seniors Program	Capital Area Food Bank	Workshop 2 Advocacy	Visit the monuments and Smithsonian	
10:00		Walking Tour of Washington, DC			Free Time		
11:00							
12:00		lunch	Lunch Provided	Bag lunch	lunch	bag lunch	
1:00		Reflection	SOME Kuehner Place Seniors Program	Capital Area Food Bank	Travel to Congress	Visit the monuments and Smithsonian	
2:00		Free Time			Visit Congressional Offices		
3:00							
4:00	Arrival/ Free Time	Food prep/ Dinner	Travel back to lodging	Travel back to lodging			
5:00		Travel	Reflection	Reflection	Travel back to FMS		
6:00	Orientation	Capitol Hill Group Ministry	Food prep/ Dinner	Food prep/ Dinner	Food prep/ Dinner		
	Prayer						
7:00	Dinner					Dinner out in Washington, DC	
8:00	Free time		Prayer	Prayer	Reflection		
9:00		Travel	Free time	Free time	Prayer	Free time	
		Prayer					
10:00	QT/Lights Out	QT/Lights Out	QT/Lights Out	QT/Lights Out	QT/Lights Out	QT/Lights Out	

Travel	Cultural Activity
Free Time	Community Engagement
Workshops	Prayer/Mass
Meals	Quiet time/Lights out
Reflection	Prep for Days Activities