

Vincentian Virtues in Faith-based Retreats

To what extent do students who participate in CCM retreats utilize a faith-based perspective to inform their critical personal life choices?

Learning Outcome

- Students who participate in CCM retreats will utilize a faith-based perspective to inform their critical personal life choices.

Methodology

- The department identified a purposeful sample of students who attended spring quarter retreats to participate in this project.
- Data about how students engaged one or more Vincentian virtues in a significant decision they had made was collected via a single, short-essay question survey.
- The survey was distributed electronically to all spring quarter retreat attendees within 1 week after the retreat.
- Data was analyzed by department staff using an internally created rubric that assessed participants' ability to define Vincentian virtues accurately and apply that virtue meaningfully to a personal decision.

“I have to make a choice between doing a year of post-grad service, going to Guatemala for the Fulbright, and getting a job. I think the biggest thing for me in this decision is to see where my zeal or passion is directed. When I think about doing one of these things, do I feel zealous and ready to take on the challenge?”

Demographics

- Students who attended the Men's, Women's and Senior Retreats in spring quarter 2016 were included in the sample for this project.
- Of the 28 students who attended spring quarter retreats, 12 students (43%) completed the survey.
- Of the 12 students who participated, 9 identified as White (75%) and 7 identified as female (58%).
- Additionally, 5 students were seniors (42%), 3 were juniors (25%), 3 were first-year students (25%) and 1 was a sophomore (8%).

Key Findings

- 10 of 12 students (83%) demonstrated an accurate understanding of at least one Vincentian virtue.
- 8 of 12 students (67%) successfully articulated how they have utilized at least one Vincentian virtue in their own personal process of making important decisions.

Plan of Action

- Identify how to engage particular Vincentian virtues in monthly gatherings for departmental student leadership trainings.
- Identify how to engage the five Vincentian virtues during fall quarter new student retreats.
- Work with student leaders involved with the Search Retreat to integrate Vincentian virtues into the February retreat experience.