Experiencing Vincentian Hospitality
by Quinton Foshag

In my first ever experience living in the Vincentian House of Charity, I was so amazed by the love and compassion that Sister Monica and Sister Clair met us with. From the moment we arrived at the House of Charity in New Orleans on our service trip, we were treated as family. I cannot say there was a single moment during my stay with the sisters that I felt uncomfortable or neglected. These women were so gracious to us, people they had never before met, and allowed us to be ourselves and ask questions about the circumstances of an environment we knew little about.

While the sisters encouraged us in conversation to discuss and further understand the lack of resources and opportunity within the New Orleans community we were serving, they also provided us, via their example, with ways in which to engage in our new community.

I will never forget the respect and grace with which Sister Monica engaged with the people she had us meet. And this only encourages myself to do the same, seeing how much more people were willing to open up to you when you don’t put yourself over them, but beside them. Sister Monica showed me how be one with my community, both small and large. I will always strive to be as gracious to those around me as she has been to me and to our group.
Exploring Spirituality in Bladensburg

by Estefany Archila

My moment of spiritual enlightenment unexpectedly took place in the small town of Bladensburg, MD right outside of Washington D.C. Traveling around the country through my different experiences of service; I interacted and connected with dozens of people. As each person opened up and shared their story, I was able to see their brokenness. At this point, I had started to see my own brokenness as well. Before walking into the Sister’s home, I had been personally struggling with the question “What make me feel most alive?” and “How was I centering myself in my everyday life?” I almost felt lost and disoriented- not fully knowing how I could connect with myself. Experiencing the Vincentian hospitality that the Daughters of Charity offered a safe space in which I can explore my own spirituality and how I could, in fact, connect with myself. I was able to hear the Sisters’ stories and their passion for social justice and life in general was so inspiring. I was able to see firsthand, how the Sisters pulled strength from their relationship with God. This awoke my own curiosity about my own spirituality. After years of not questioning what God meant to me and what role I wanted Him to play in my life, I prayed, reflected, and ultimately recognized that the struggles of a broken family and the realities of needing to look for a different support system in my life was a part of my story. It wasn’t all bad and it wasn’t all good, but connecting with the Sisters helped me realize that I was grateful because those moments were the ones that had gotten me to step through the doors of the Sisters’ home.
“I try to be more conscious of my race and the privilege associated with it.”
-Spring 2014 Immersion Participant

I have a different outlook on serving others. I now see it as a two-fold process whereas before I saw myself doing others a favor. I emphasize others because the most important thing I took away from the trip was not to define people as others.
-Spring 2014 Immersion Participant

I have been spending less time on my phone and more time engaging in conversation. I am looking for a weekly service commitment.
-Spring 2014 Immersion Participant

“I try to remember things that I am thankful for each morning and live simply throughout the day.”
-Spring 2014 Immersion Participant

If you have bring change back home stories you would like to share email us at umintrips@depaul.edu!
DePaul Service Immersion Spring Break 2014

A Message to Our Community Partners

Thank you so much for welcoming us into your homes and communities and teaching us through new experiences each day. You are the definition of Vincentian hospitality, and without you all we would not have a service immersion program. Thank you for the invitation to engage in solidarity and dialogue with you.