

weekly collection

Our weekly collection will be given to the Campus Ministry International and Domestic Service Immersion Trips. All proceeds will be distributed among participants, each of whom are responsible for their own fundraising to cover travel, accommodations, meals and a donation to the service site.

Habitat for Humanity

Over Fall Break, Spring Break, and the Summer 4 separate groups will take part in Habitat for Humanity's national alternative spring break program, Collegiate Challenge. Together with other college students from across the country, Neumann students will have the opportunity to work on various stages of home construction and rehabilitation.

Cardinal Kelvin Felix Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre

In May, a small group will travel to Gros Islet, St. Lucia to serve with Sr. Frances Nosbisch, OSF at a pastoral centre which serves to meet various community needs in St. Lucia.

Valley of Angels

Partnering with the Franciscan Mission Service, a group will head just outside Guatemala City to serve at the Valley of Angels orphanage and boarding school. Valley of Angels provides housing, meals, clothing and schooling to children in poverty.

Wind River Indian Reservation

Neumann students will continue a long-standing tradition of journeying west to serve with Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF at the three Catholic parishes on Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation of the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



@neuministry

this week in campus ministry

November 26, 2017

If you have ever had even a slightly extensive conversation with me, you have probably been subjected to a photo or two of the cutest children in the world (my niece and nephew, Abigail and Patrick). Thank you to those who have humored me, as I know I am more than a bit biased. There are a lot of reasons that I love Abigail and Patrick, and in the extra time that I had with them over Thanksgiving, those reasons were abundantly apparent. Abigail is a sassy 3-year-old who likes to make her opinion known; she has an endless supply of energy and can simultaneously read a book, dress up like a fairy and arrange her collection of hockey pucks. Patrick is a 7-month-old with perpetually rosy cheeks who likes to dance to Elmo songs and look at himself in a mirror. I love them for their individual spirits, and for the joy that they bring to our family.

For as much delight that these two little ones have brought into my life, however, they have brought an equal amount of fear. Every time that we

experience a tragedy in our world, and with the increased frequency that these tragedies seem to be occurring, I can't help but think of and fear for those two tiny faces. Children are so innocent and so inherently good - it is hard to imagine that they can be growing up in a world where violence and hate are so prevalent. As an aunt, I want so badly to protect these kids and to shelter them from the larger, scary world that awaits them. I want to keep them young, keep them in the stage where their biggest concern is not wanting to go to take a nap. I know that if this is what I experience as an aunt, what parents experience must only be magnified.

I think today's Gospel, which happens to be one of my favorite scripture readings, can provide some consolation. The message in this often quoted Gospel of Matthew can be relatively simple if we let it: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you

Continued inside...

Reflection by Maria Marx, Campus Minister

Interested in writing a weekly reflection? Email campusministry@neumann.edu

what you may have missed...



Thanks to your generosity, we collected over 400 non-perishable items for our food drive! All donations were brought to St. Katherine Drexel Food Pantry in Chester. Your generosity is so appreciated!!

If you're still in the spirit of giving, the Giving Tree is up outside of the Chapel.

Last week, we commissioned 32 students who will be participating in a pilgrimage to Assisi and 5 service immersion trips in Louisiana, South Carolina, Wyoming, Guatemala and St. Lucia over the winter, spring and summer breaks.



...what you CAN'T miss

Wednesday, November 29

Operation Hunger - 12:00PM, Bruder Cafeteria
Come by and make some PB&Js for Catholic Social Services in Chester!

Friday, December 1

Journey to Bethlehem - 6:00PM, LLC2
Join us and the Assisi Living community for a reflective and meditative Advent program consisting of music, scripture readings and reflections.

Sunday, December 3

Mass - 4:30PM, Sacred Heart Chapel
Greccio Live Nativity - 6:15PM, Mirenda Center Lawn
Come out for a festive evening as we celebrate the Franciscan tradition of Greccio, the Living Nativity!

cared for me, in prison and you visited me." In this litany of challenges and the actions to solve them, the solution is never very far or very hard. If one is hungry, give food. If one is thirsty, give drink. The answer is right in front of us. The bottom line in this Gospel is that Jesus wants us to be *good* to one another. Simple. Though often we feel the need to complicate it: "Should I give food, even if the person is/did/has...?" "Should I welcome a stranger even if they are...?" Jesus' lesson does not change, though, no matter how much we might question it. Be good to your neighbor, *always*, he says, for "Whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

The consolation in this often fearful world for children like Abigail and

Patrick is that while we cannot shelter them forever from the realities of our world, we can teach them this simple lesson over and over and over again. If we teach them when they are young, before they are tempted to complicate it, they will know that, before anything else, we have a call and an obligation to be good to one another. No doubt, we were all taught this lesson when we were young too. Now that we are older and able to think more critically, we are tempted to obscure the lesson, to ask questions that make us doubt that responding in the simple way that Jesus taught is enough. Let us remember with child-like innocence, especially as we prepare to enter the season of Advent, that we are called, without question, to be good to one another *always*.