

weekly collection

Our weekly collection will be given to the Campus Ministry International and Domestic Service Immersion Trips. Each week, we will highlight one of the six trips that will be offered this fall, spring and summer. 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.

Trips:

Fall Break: St. Vincent DePaul Center, Philadelphia, PA

Spring Break: Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge I & II
(Locations TBD)

Summer: Cardinal Kelvin Felix Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, St. Lucia
Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming
South America Trip To Be Announced Soon!

St. Vincent DePaul Center - Philadelphia, PA

October 7- October 11, 2016

Application due September 30

In celebration of our Franciscan mission, we will be spending a long weekend in the Germantown section of Philadelphia focusing on our goal to be good stewards of the environment. Throughout the weekend, we will serve at several environmentally-focused sites doing a variety of sustainability projects (park upkeep, recycling projects, etc.). We will also be participating in some fun daily challenges to make us more aware of our daily energy usage and resource consumption.

All applications are available outside Campus Ministry (BMB 137) and at www.neumann.edu/mission

Fall Break Trip Apps due Sept. 30, Spring and Summer Trip Apps due Oct. 7

@neuministry



this week in campus ministry

August 28, 2016

I walked up to the doors of the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen in Scranton, bright and early on a Saturday morning - several hours earlier than I was used to being awake on a Saturday in college. I was there to begin my regular hours as a volunteer. The soup kitchen was the "go-to" service site in Scranton, yet somehow, even having grown up there, I had little recollection of ever volunteering there. Upon approaching, I found the door, labeled "volunteer entrance," locked. I peeked through and didn't see anyone. I walked around the building to see if there was another entrance with no luck. As I walked back to the door I had originally tried, I saw a woman waiting outside. I smiled and waved tentatively. I peeked into the door again, still no one. I checked my watch; I was sure they said to be there before 7. The woman, seeing my confusion said, "They'll be here soon to let us in." "Thank you," I said, "but I'm waiting to get in early to volunteer." She looked slightly perturbed, but said nothing more, instead looking down at the cart of belongings at her side. Assuming, based purely on the woman's appearance, that she was there as a patron of the soup kitchen, I suppose I had felt the need to explain that I was there as a volunteer, *not* a patron. She was right, however, and just a few minutes later, the chef zoomed into the parking lot and rushed to open the vol-

unteer door. To my naïve surprise, the woman followed me in; she walked right into the kitchen, found herself an apron, and began making coffee - a much more seasoned and skilled volunteer than I. Feeling foolish at my wrongful and ignorant assumption, I did not have a great feeling about how the rest of my volunteer experience would go at the soup kitchen.

Fortunately, my initial ignorance did not cloud the rest of my volunteering experience, in fact, I believe it made it all the more enlightening. I wish I could say that I spoke with the woman, apologized for my wrongful assumption and a beautiful friendship ensued. That did not happen, but I did work alongside her in the weekends to follow. My mistake and the following guilt and humiliation that I felt forced me to think twice about the assumptions that I might be making, both at the soup kitchen and in my day-to-day life.

This experience comes to mind as I reflect on today's readings. A common theme can be found in the first reading, the psalm, and the Gospel today: humility. I was in great need of an exercise in humility as I began volunteering at the soup kitchen. What made me, an inexperienced college student, think that I was better, in some way, than the wom-

(Continued inside)

Reflection by Maria Marx, Campus Minister

Interested in writing a reflection for this weekly newsletter? Talk to Maria or Patrick or email campusministry@neumann.edu

what you may have missed...



RISES 2016

This week, 13 members of the Class of 2020 participated in our first RISES retreat of the year - a retreat just for first year students! As a group, we did a day of service in Philadelphia, reflected on the role of the RISES values on campus, and had some friendly competition with our RISES Olympics!



Bumped you missed our first RISES? No worries!

If you are a first year student (including transfers!) you can sign up for our next RISES Retreat taking place October 21-23.

Not a first year student but want an awesome experience like this?

Check out our SEARCH retreat!

All sign-up forms are available outside Campus Ministry (BMB 137) or at www.neumann.edu/mission

...what you CAN'T miss

Monday, August 29

First Year BBQ - Campus Ministry Staff wants to meet all of our First Year Students! Meet us on the Miranda Center Lawn at **5:30PM** for some Zac's burgers (First 200 people) and ice cream!

Tuesday, August 30

Campus Ministry Open House - Come see what we're offering this semester AND come meet our new chaplain, Fr. Thorne.
11:00AM -1:00PM in Campus Ministry (BMB 137)

Thursday, September 1

Mass -of the Holy Spirit - Join the entire Neumann community in celebrating the beginning of the academic year with our traditional Mass of the Holy Spirit.
11:30AM at Our Lady of Angels Convent, BBQ to follow on Bruder Patio .

Sunday, September 4

No Mass on Campus (Labor Day Weekend)
Mass at Our Lady of Angels Convent: 10:00AM

Sign up in Campus Ministry or talk to Maria and Patrick about lecturing, serving, being a Eucharistic Minister, cantor or hospitality minister! Training will be before Mass on September 11!

Reading Reflection (Continued...)

an that I met at the door? What if she had, in fact, been a patron of the kitchen? Would I have thought twice about the way I interacted with her? "For everyone who exalts [her]self will be humbled," Luke's Gospel reads, "but the one who humbles [her]self will be exalted." To make oneself humble means, literally, to "show a modest or low estimate of one's importance." It is so easy to meet someone - in any setting: a service experience, a class, a residence

hall, a soccer field - and to assume importance. "I am fundamentally better than you," we may think, "because I am nicer, smarter, more athletic, and on and on." Today we are urged to put those thoughts aside. We are urged to make ourselves humble so that we might one day be exalted. What a great perspective to begin a new school year! May we all think twice about our assumptions, and allow ourselves the gift of humility and growth through our daily interactions.