

# Villa Joseph Marie High School Mission & Ministry

## Winter Service Immersion Trip to

### *Haiti*

**When:** One week; falling between July 14-23 – approximate date – may change depending on airfare.

**Where:** Port au Prince, Haiti – 2 parishes run by the Missionhurst priests (one urban, one rural parish).

**What:** A week long service immersion experience, living in simplicity and in community, serving the poor and vulnerable populations of Haiti.

**Who:** Seniors and juniors who have spent time developing their commitment to service and growing their spiritual life. We will accept students who are prepared for a challenge in simple living, community, and social justice. Students will travel with Mr. Tom Kardish, President and Ms. Caroline Hall, Campus Minister.

**How:** The cost of the trip will be around \$1,500.\* this amount will cover the transportation (flight & in country transportation), food, and lodging for the 6-day service experience. *\*This is an estimated cost, final cost will be determined once the tickets are purchased.* Once accepted, a deposit of \$500 will be required.

**Why:** Our Catholic faith, tradition, and values call us to see Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, not just the ones we know. This service experience will allow us to live out our faith on a new level.

**APPLICATION:** due to Miss Hall (guidance suite room 361) before December 15th at 3:00pm. You will be notified via email to the address listed on this application.

Please type this information at the top of the page: Name, Homeroom, Email, Phone number

1. What do you understand the purpose of service immersion trips to be? Why do you want this experience?
2. How would you describe your spiritual life? What do you believe about God?
3. Describe an experience of love in your life that has had an impact on your understanding of community. How has this experience changed the way you approach and live out relationships with others?
4. How have social justice and service been a part of your life? Describe if this relates to your faith.
5. Describe an experience of service that has impacted your life.

## **Components of Villa's Service Immersion Program**

### **Simple Living:**

During this 6-day experience your cell phones will be collected and students will be asked to challenge themselves to live more simply. While focusing on a more simple lifestyle students will have all their basic needs met (food, clothing, shelter, safety) but will not have the same luxuries as they may at home (cable, internet, a wide-variety of food choices, etc.). You will be asked to pack light, only bringing what you NEED for the week. Previous missionaries have brought gently used clothes that we leave behind to be used by the people we encounter.

### **Community:**

Living in community allows students to become fully present to those around them. The group will be sharing house-hold chores; we also have time to make new friends with the Haitian teenagers. Students will share rooms. During free time students are asked to spend time together to deepen their communal relationships.

### **Prayer and Reflection:**

Each day the group will spend time in prayer and reflection together. As Catholics we believe a vital part of service, is allowing time to properly reflect on and process the experience. This will also allow students to deepen their faith through a combination of personal and communal prayer.

### **Solidarity and Social Justice:**

The reason for an immersion trip is to experience a reality not your own. Through the experience of finding community in people we would have never met, we grow our understanding of solidarity. We will be faced with living conditions unlike our own, a school system and government unfamiliar to us, and health care infrastructure that is inadequate. As visitors it will be our job to learn as much about these things as possible, while keeping in mind ways we can be of service. We will be encouraged to find the things we have in common with our Haitian brothers and sisters, rather than dwelling on differences.

*Once you have read the above information please sign that you understand what was stated above. If you are selected you will sign a formal permission slip.*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. McCarthy, ([smccarthy@vjmh.org](mailto:smccarthy@vjmh.org)), Miss Hall ([chall@vjmh.org](mailto:chall@vjmh.org)) or Mr. Kardish ([tkardish@vjmh.org](mailto:tkardish@vjmh.org)), 215.357.8810. If you would like to read blog posts about previous trips, they are at [vjmh.org/jemsonamission](http://vjmh.org/jemsonamission)