



## Walking in the Footsteps of Mother Maria

Mt. Carmel, PA Service Trip

June 4-6, 2019

*"May Jesus empty us of everything but His love!" –Venerable Maria Kaupas*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** applications are due to Mrs. McCarthy on or before **January 25, 2019 by 3:00pm.** Mrs. Brown will make sure all students who apply are academically eligible to attend. Once approved by Mrs. Brown, a committee of faculty and administration will review all applications. You will be notified via email to the address listed on this application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class year: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

Email that you check regularly: \_\_\_\_\_

\*you will be notified via email if you are selected

Before applying please understand if you are selected for this retreat-immersion experience you are making a commitment to attend the mandatory preparation meetings as well as the actual service experience.

**Trip Dates:** June 4-6, 2019

**Who:** Freshmen, sophomores and juniors may apply! (Class of 2020, 2021, 2022)

**Mandatory Preparation Meetings:** May 7, 2019 3-5pm

**Cost:** \$200 includes travel, retreat center fees, and food. If accepted money will be due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*you will be asked to bring snacks

**Location:** Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mt. Carmel, PA

Website: <https://mothermariakaupascenter.wordpress.com/who-we-are/>

We will depart Villa around 8:00am on June 4<sup>th</sup> and travel by rented vans from Villa to Mt. Carmel. We will stay at the Maria Kaupas Retreat Center. Each day we will serve locally in the community and learn more about our foundress, including seeing some of the first missions she helped start in this area. We will return in the evening on June 6<sup>th</sup> around 7pm.

### **Expectations:**

You are expected to be a representation of Villa Joseph Marie High School at all times. You are expected to treat one another with new eyes and offer the same openness and respect to all those we meet. You are expected to contribute your thoughts and feelings in small and large group settings. The more you engage yourself and reach out in conversation, the deeper you will learn.

## Components of the Villa Service Immersion Experiences

### **Simple Living:**

During this 3-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 three days.

### **Community:**

Living in community allows students to become fully present to those around them. The group will be sharing house-hold chores such as meal prep and cleaning. Students may need to 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.

**Please type and attach your responses to the following questions (or email them to Mrs. McCarthy).**

1. Please describe what Villa Joseph Marie High School's Mission means to you?
2. On this service immersion trip you will be walking in the footsteps of the Venerable Mother Maria. Based on what you already know about Mother Maria, please explain what inspires you about her? Is there anything you hope to learn about our Foundress?
3. How do you live your faith every day and what challenges does that bring?
4. What compels you to do to service?
5. How do you hope to bring this experience back to the students and staff at VJM? In other words, how do you hope to live out this Mission-focused service trip?

Once you have completed the application please sign that you understand what was stated above.

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

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

Coach/Athletic Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. McCarthy ([smccarthy@vjmhs.org](mailto:smccarthy@vjmhs.org)) or Ms. Hall ([chall@vjmhs.org](mailto:chall@vjmhs.org)) in person or via email.

**Thank you for applying!**