Compassion
Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

Virtual Teach-In on Migration

The Ignatian Solidarity Network will host a "virtual" Teach-In on Migration on Saturday, March 2 from 12:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET (11:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CT, 10:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. MT). It will include dynamic speakers, prayer, virtual networking and shared reflection opportunities to explore the realities of migration — both on the border and in communities across the country.

The Teach-In schedule and speakers can be found online. The Teach-In kicks off the 2019 Ignatian Family Advocacy Month — focusing on coordinated advocacy efforts as a network for more humane immigration policies. While participants attending live will have additional virtual networking opportunities, all registered participants will be able to access the virtual recordings and prayer/reflection resources to engage in the program later. Registered participants will be invited to connect to the virtual IFTJ via an online conferencing system; connection instructions will be provided upon registration. Register here.

Province Colleagues Retreat

The UCS Province is offering a wonderful opportunity to our lay colleagues in province apostolates to attend an Ignatian silent retreat this summer. Spaces are still open for the seven-day retreat July 6-12 at Montserrat Retreat House in Lake Dallas, Texas.

Following the rhythm of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, each day will consist of presentations focused on the call to reconciliation, opportunities for private prayer, Eucharist and other forms of communal prayer. Options for meeting with a spiritual director will be available, and there will be ample time for quiet personal prayer and reflection.

Father Hung Pham, SJ, an assistant professor of Ignatian Spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, will present. The cost of the retreat is $500/person + travel. Register online.

The *Encuentro Project* is Open for Border Immersion Trips!

We're very excited to introduce this new collaborative and inter-congregational ministry in El Paso, Texas, involving the Jesuits, the Marist Brothers, and the Hope Border Institute. The Encuentro Project offers programming and lodging for immersion and encounter experiences in the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) border region for groups of up to 20 people from high schools, universities and parishes. Immersion programs will typically be 4-6 days in length and can be tailored for the needs and ages of participants. Each experience will normally include:

- some direct work or encounter experience with asylum seekers, migrants or refugees;
- education in Catholic social teaching on migration;
- opportunities for deepening understanding of border/migrant realities through site visits, including a trip to or across the U.S.-Mexico border;
- evening reflection and prayer.

The fee for short-term immersions are $80/day per person, which includes staff assistance in designing the programming, lodging, breakfast and catered evening meals. (Costs not included are transportation to and from EL Paso AND in El Paso and daily lunches).

Students from Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas recently participated in a four-day Encuentro Project Immersion trip. Here's what Rich Perry, the director of community service and social justice for the school had to say about their experience: *"I have completed over 100 social justice immersion experiences, and this program was absolutely one of the very best. The program provides an upfront and close, personal encounter with the migrant experience. It was the right blend of reflection, prayer, work and discovery of local culture and conditions. The program is safe and very well organized. It's ideal for students at the high school or college level."*

Reservations are now being accepted for encounters to take place in the 2019-20 academic year. Contact Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ, the director of the Encuentro Project at encuentro-project@gmail.com or 915-301-0919 for more information.