

Glimpses of Artisans of Change

My experience going on the Chicago Immersion trip at Darst Center was so unique and it was awesome because each of us could have a different view of it. I felt a sickness in my stomach when hearing about the immigration and seeing the videos that went with it. I felt uncomfortable walking past Cook County Jail and hearing what the inmates go through every day right inside there. After all of those feelings, I had a strong feeling of hope leaving Chicago. I had hope that what we were doing was a small part of something so huge and helpful to come. I believe that my other Ursuline Academy sisters and I were a part of something big and that we were all inspired to bring what we learned back to our own community. I realized that social injustices happen like that happen everywhere and we are so crucial to changing that.



See it Differently

Lauren Brunette, UA, St. Louis, Class of 2020

The most rewarding part of the experience in my opinion was going to the homeless shelter where we made, served, and ate dinner with the homeless people living there. I sat with a man named Ellis who expressed his need for housing assistance. Ellis was very wise, funny, and just easy to be around. This type of service makes me feel like I am making a difference in someone's life and it is so rewarding.

The Darst Center was a very hospitable place to have this unique service experience. With their help, I was able to learn more about various social justice issues in America and how I can be part of the solution. I am excited to get home and share everything I have experienced and learned in Chicago.

Abby Ashrafzadeh UA, St. Louis- Class of 2020

From this trip I really hope to bring up the knowledge that I have learned into my own community and not be afraid to step up and do what is right for others who really need it. I hope to become an active volunteer and help others, not as someone higher in power but as someone who is a human and friend to others. This trip taught me a lot about immigration, segregation, homelessness, and much more. I hope to take what I have learned about in my own hands and make a new thing change in my community for the better.

Sophie Caton UA, St. Louis – Class of 2020

I have spent the last several days trying to put together a "work at home plan" for the 450 students we have in our Mission School in the Dominican Republic, which will close in a day or two. We do not have access to technology so we need to create a work plan in a rush and print out the materials so the kids can take it home. We have to supply them with the tools for writing and coloring as well. Totally time-consuming. Without some guided plan the children will be out playing in the mud and sharing more than dirty hugs with each other. How do we keep them safe from contaminating each other? Everyone lives almost one on top of the other. It is tiring trying to be creative under these circumstances.

Bernadette McKay, osu Dominican Republic

The reflection process presented by the *Laudato Si* committee placed before our province the challenge of using our resources for the common good and the care of our common home.

We have joined with a group of affiliated Dominican Sisters congregations, who have partnered with Graystone Consulting, a division of Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners to offer a climate solutions private equity fund that will: target investments which create measurable positive impact on issues related to climate change and its disproportionate impact on poor people. We see this as part of our legacy and our commitment "to open our hearts to the cries of our earth and its people." Chapter Statement 2013 and our recent Chapter Call to be intentional in assuming our personal and corporate responsibility to care for our common home.



Jane Finnerty, osu New Rochelle, New York

At Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish we began facing the tough issues around immigration by standing before our Parish community from the altar acknowledging the disturbing situation many of our friends, neighbors and fellow parishioner were facing. Fear of deportation and families being torn apart was overwhelming in our community. Standing with them in solidarity and support was our first priority. We sponsored and attended meetings in Spanish exploring the issues and resources, making those resources available. We held a postcard writing marathon in the church at the end of Mass collecting over 500 postcards to our legislators supporting a California bill protecting immigrants. That bill passed in Sacramento. We distributed informational cards in both English and Spanish outlining the rights of all individuals in the event of an ICE raid. Some of our bilingual members joined a Rapid Response Team that is on call to serve as witnesses and aid people during ICE raids. As recently as mid-February that Rapid Response Team has been there in just such events. Our USA immigration system is horribly broken and needs change, and there are many ways that we can help.

Dianne Baumunk, osu Windsor, California

What Can You Do?