What is a cross-cultural mission experience?

A CCME is an opportunity to immerse yourself in a situation for a short time to better understand the problems as well as the positive aspects of a specific demographic location and culture. By exploring these cultures and the residents’ stories, we look not only at geography, race, and ethnicity, but also at sociology, economics, and the history of a people. Through hands on service, educational opportunities, discussions, prayer and reflections (See, Judge, Act) framed by Catholic Social Teaching and our Spiritan tradition, participants encounter a holistic approach to justice in relation to their lived faith experience. While this understanding of justice is rooted in our Catholic tradition, Spiritan Campus Ministry invites people of all denominations and all faiths to participate, recognizing that there is a similar call in other religious traditions to serve the poor and disadvantaged.

www.duq.edu/crosscultural
Living Duquesne’s Mission

As part of the Duquesne University community, you understand what it means to have a heart for others. Spirtan Campus Ministry invites you to share your passion to give back and to learn about other people by participating in one of our cross-cultural mission experiences.

Appalachian Experience
Pineville, WV (First four days of Spring Break)
This annual trip to the southern coal fields region of West Virginia occurs during the first part of Spring break. Participants spend a few days working to improve housing conditions in the Appalachian community of Pineville, W.V. and learn more about the people, the local economy and environmental conditions. Examples of work; home repair (no construction experience needed!), work in a local day care or food bank and run a game night at a home for mentally challenged adults. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to see another culture that’s nearly in our backyard.

Pittsburgh Plunge
Pittsburgh, PA (First four days of Spring Break)
The Pittsburgh Urban Plunge is an immersion experience in which students see sights and sounds of Pittsburgh with which they may be unfamiliar, including the challenges of urban poverty, its impact on the local community, and the signs of hope that exist in the city. Students will volunteer and serve at local urban schools, food banks, homeless shelters and other social services as well as meet and reflect with people affected by poverty as well as those working for change. This is your chance to build bridges of understanding between Duquesne and our local neighborhoods!

Migrant Farmworker Experience
Immokalee, FL (Spring Break, entire week)
This cross-cultural experience involves an immersion into the lives of migrant farmworkers in the agricultural hub of Immokalee, Florida. Participants learn and serve in local social service agencies (e.g. tutoring in day care centers, working with Habitat for Humanity). Students will listen to the stories of farmworkers and organizations like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) that assist them with advocacy in immigration, housing, material assistance, education and healthcare.

Hurricane Relief Work
New Orleans, LA (Spring Break, entire week)
In 2006, Hurricane Katrina devastated much of New Orleans. Recovery and reconstruction efforts are still in great demand. Students are encouraged to join an SCM team over Spring break to help New Orleans residents take one step further in rebuilding their homes and their lives. Students spend the week building homes, learning about the conditions of many of the areas in and around New Orleans before and after Katrina, and discussing the root causes of the issues that allow these conditions to persist.

Children’s Camp at a Spiritan Mission
San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic (Second week of August)
The cross-cultural experience to the Dominican Republic involves running a camp for small children at a Spiritan Mission in San Juan de La Maguana. At the Spiritan Mission students work with the teenagers of the community as well as learning about the Dominican culture. The students work with the teens by providing a day camp that includes craft projects, music, stories, and outdoor games and sports. In the evenings the group spends time with the teens and their families experiencing the culture through food, dance, and story sharing. Preference for this experience will be given to Spanish speakers.

Application Process
Applications are available for all CCMEs the first week of classes in the fall semester. All applications are typically due the first week of October, but we ask that you check our website for exact deadlines as it changes from year to year. After the due date, the application process is closed for that academic year. For more information on any of the experiences, contact Luci-Jo at dimaggi171@duq.edu or X1405.

www.duq.edu/campus-ministry