



Faith Houses Newsletter

University of Dayton
MSCs & FVLs

February 2020

Upcoming Events

February 3rd
Agape Latte
7:30-9:00pm
Torch Lounge

February 4th
**BeyondUD Post-grad
Volunteer Panel Supper**
5:00-6:30
Liberty Hall O8
RSVP:
go.udayton.edu/beyondud

February 4th
**Finding Jesus Among
Muslims**
5:00pm
Sears Recital Hall
PATH Eligible Event

February 7-9
Metanoia Retreat
Deadline to register is Tuesday
Register at
tinyurl.com/RegisterUDRetreats

More February events can be
found on page 3



The Soul of Community

Elizabeth Montgomery

It is hard to believe that this is only the start of February, yet sophomores and juniors have already submitted their applications to live in FVL and MSC houses for next year. Right now, you have spent around 5 months living in your faith-based intentional communities.

After reading the applications and conducting the FVL group interviews in December, I was struck by the various reasons people expressed as to why they wanted to live in a faith-based house. Some were looking for a way to live with other UD students in a shared life beyond what you could without the intentionality that a FVL or MSC encourages. Some were seeking to be of one mind and heart with others in Jesus Christ.

What was shared reminded me of the fact that we are not created by God to live alone. Living in community is an essential expression of who we are. But community does not just happen – it is something that takes time, work and cooperation to develop. Living in community brings about joy but that joy is not without its challenges.

Hopefully, the last 5 months have been an overall positive and rewarding time for you and that any challenges you have faced communally have been beneficial for your growth and your community's growth. If it has not been what you had hoped for, take some time reflecting on if the individual commitments of the members impeded the development of a common life. Maybe there was not enough common prayer or time eating together. Maybe there was not sufficient common expectations around personal space and cleanliness. In intentional community, the balance between one's own life and schedule and your community's shared life is so important.

What distinguishes intentional Christian community from other forms of Christian community—is the *obedience and faithfulness* of members in coming together to share a meal together, pray together, break bread together, hear and study the Scripture together. What areas have you and your housemates done well? What areas need improvement? St. John Paul II said “a community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You, the people must give it this soul.” I hope and pray that this remaining time of living in your Faith Houses is one where you truly have come home.



Love is Universal

William Capuano

This past winter break, I had the blessed opportunity to travel to Tijuana with 11 other amazing UD students on a winter breakout through the Center of Social Concern. We stayed at Tijuana Christian Mission, which is an orphanage for children of all ages. We did a lot of typical service which included painting, working at a soup kitchen, and delivering water and sandwiches to the needy. But, my biggest takeaway from this experience was the friendships that I made with those that live at the orphanage full time.

Building relationships with these incredible human beings was service in itself. I didn't know how much my 6 years of Spanish class in middle school and high school was going to help me communicate with my new friends, but I was pleasantly surprised with my ability to have conversations in their native language. However, I could have built relationships with and loved these people without knowing a lick of Spanish.

Love is universal. Love is a language that everybody in our world knows. Showing love is teaching one young man how to play "Boys Round Here" by Blake Shelton on guitar. Showing love is doing Fortnite dances with another. Showing love is playing WWE UNO at least three times a day with a third. I was able to do all of these things without my knowledge of Spanish.

So, what's my point? My point is that we can love all no matter what language they speak. Don't let language, or anything else, be an obstacle. God taught us to love endlessly, so let's do so with our actions and generosity. We don't need words. We NEED to show love and receive love. We NEED to show those around us their worth by simply loving them and their company. This is what makes our world a better place, and works to create that peace in it that we strive for and need.

I challenge each and everyone of you today to show somebody an act of love that doesn't involve words. Show somebody love in a "universal" way. You never know what somebody is going through, and your act of love could just maybe truly change their life for the better. God equipped all of us with different gifts, so let's help people realize what they are.



Community Prayer

This poem, entitled "Called to Become" was taken from a collection of poems by Edwina Gateley

You are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one is called to become
Who you are called to be.
It does not matter
How short or tall
Or thick-set or slow
You may be.
It does not matter
Whether you sparkle with life
Or are as silent as a still pool.
Whether you sing your song aloud
Or weep alone in darkness.
It does not matter
Whether you feel loved and admired
Or unloved and alone
For you are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one's shadow
Should cloud your becoming.
No one's light
Should dispel your spark.
For the Lord delights in you.
Jealously looks upon you
And encourages with gentle joy
Every movement of the Spirit
Within you.
Unique and loved you stand.
Beautiful or stunted in your growth
But never without hope and life.
For you are called to become
A perfect creation.
This becoming may be
Gentle or harsh.
Subtle or violent.
But it never ceases.
Never pauses or hesitates.
Only is—
Creative force—
Calling you
Calling you to become
A perfect creation.

Alumni Story Spotlight

Luke Horner

435 Kiefaber

What are your favorite memories from living in a Faith House Community?

We just got to spend so much time together outside of the scheduled times we planned. It is a blessing to truly know the people you live with and have such comfortable friendships in a home.

What impact did living in Faith-Based Housing have on your life?

It increased my patience and understanding of the feelings of those around me. Community life included a lot of listening, learning, and sacrifice, which are traits necessary to get the most out of life.

What did you learn about community from this experience?

Community when done correctly can bring a great amount of peace. The most beautiful moments of community come when everyone involved is all in to make it happen. Everyone is busy, but when the community is one of the higher priorities for all, it can really help de-stress the rest of life.

How did your experience of living in a Faith House strengthen your faith and prayer life?

It was good to learn about prayer from six new perspectives beyond my own. It broadened my horizons and gave me new ways to connect with God.

What advice do you have for students now?

Be patient and let love stand before all else.



February 3 – Alyssa Potempa

February 6 – Sam Penewit

February 8th

Girls Night (In)

8:00–10:00pm

429 College Park

February 8th

Paint Night

7:00–8:30pm

1312 Brown Street

February 9th

Chocolate & Chat

1:00–2:30 pm

340 Stonemill

February 24th

Acting Justly in the Face of Change

Dinner Dialogue

5:30 Dinner

6:00–7:30 PATH eligible event

Torch Lounge

February 28th

Campus Ministry Fish Fry

5:00–8:00pm

VWK

Elizabeth Montgomery

Campus Ministry

Faith, Vocation, & Leadership Student Communities

LeeAnn Meyer

Office for Mission & Rector

Marianist Student Communities