

Mount Notre Dame Community Service
St. Vincent de Paul Urban Plunge – Summer 2020
Sunday, July 7 (9:00 AM) – Wednesday, July 10 (4:00 PM)
Chaperones: TBA | Cost: \$190

Learning and Serving in Cincinnati

Thanks for your interest in our Urban Plunge with St. Vincent de Paul! This four-day service-learning experience in Over-the-Rhine is co-sponsored by Mount Notre Dame and the Ozanam Center for Service Learning, a program of Society of St. Vincent de Paul located in the West End. The experience is designed to acquaint students with our urban core, its people, customs, and way of life. Over-the-Rhine and surrounding communities have traditionally received a great deal of press, and much of it is negative. Mount Notre Dame has been involved with these communities in a number of different ways over the years, including our SVDP Conference at MND, and we have learned a great deal from the good people of the neighborhood. This is true, too, of the West End.



While this experience takes place in our own city, it is even more challenging because the environment is much different than that of most other Cincinnati neighborhoods. The experience is often defined by issues of urban poverty and homelessness. Yet like other communities, most people in the West End and Over-the-Rhine are kind and hospitable. Despite its proximity to home, students will be expected to fully immerse themselves in the neighborhood during this weekend experience.



The Urban Plunge will be based on the paradigm of Experience, Reflection, and Action. From their experiences, students will learn about the needs of the people in poverty who live in Over-the-Rhine and the West End. Participants will begin to understand their own fears and stereotypes of the poor. Ideally, students will begin to see the face of God in the poor, in minorities, and in each other as they reflect upon the gospel in the midst of the members of the Over-the-Rhine community. The real challenge of the experience is for students to apply the lessons of the trip to their lives back at home and at Mount Notre Dame.

We will be responsible for cooking some of our own meals. Some meals, however, may be eaten in local soup kitchens. Living accommodations will be simple; the group will stay in the downtown office of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul. Simplicity of lifestyle is a hallmark of this experience.

Service with SVDP will take place during the plunge. The Vincentian model of service includes working with the Society and introducing the group to the Vincentian way of praying and visiting those in need. The service is important, but secondary to the primary goal of entering into relationships with our neighbors in need.

Transportation Arrangements: Details of student drop off and pick up will be communicated via email once the schedule and roster has been finalized. An email will be sent to all participants and parents. During the plunge, students will get from location to location via foot, chaperone car, and SVDP van.



Chaperones: Mr. Forman is still working on chaperones for this event. We may need a parent to help out. Please email tforman@mndhs.org if you are interested.

What to Bring: Details of what to bring will be shared once the roster is finalized.

Cost: \$190. This fee covers your food, lodging, and transportation expenses. Checks should be made payable to Mount Notre Dame.

Student Reflections

"I never realized how real poverty was right in my own city. I think it's great that people travel out of the country to help those in need, but why go to that extent if we have such poverty in our own backyard? Because of this awesome experience I had, I am now involved in our local SVDP with my own parish. I grew closer to God during the trip. I saw the face of God in so many people, both in the poor and in those helping the poor, and it definitely brought me closer to him. I think my prayer life has grown too because now I have a whole list of people that I lift up to God every night."

"The SVdP Urban plunge helped me see and understand much more about those experiencing poverty and the challenges they face on a daily basis. It is truly empowering to understand the challenges facing those experiencing poverty in our city and knowing how much we can help them simply by showing that we care. It is amazing to see the hope imparted to those we visited, even if we were not able to assist them."

"I learned how to not judge people who are less fortunate. Instead of judging them, I learned how to help them. I now know what is important in life. If you are fortunate enough to go on this trip, you learn that life is far more important than yourself. Life is about helping others and serving your community in a positive way."

Summer 2020 SVDP Urban Plunge • Parent Permission Form

Student Name _____ Grade _____

PARENTS: I, the lawful parent or guardian of _____ (my "child"), request my permission for my child to participate in **St. Vincent de Paul Urban Plunge** sponsored by MND according to the terms specified below:

1. I release from all liability, and indemnify and hold harmless Mount Notre Dame High School and the officers, agents, representatives, volunteers, and employees of Mount Notre Dame from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, judgments, costs or expenses, including attorney fees, known or unknown at this time, arising out of or in any way related to any injury or illness incurred by my child while participating in or traveling to or from the activity.
2. I agree to instruct my child to cooperate with MND and their agents in charge of the activity.

3a. I appoint MND and their agents who are acting as leaders of the activity as my attorney in fact to act for me in my name and my behalf, in any way that I would act if I were personally present, with respect to the following matters if any injury, illness, or medical emergency occurs during the activity:

(i) To give any and all consents and authorizations to any physician, dentist, hospital, or other persons or institutions pertaining to any emergency medications, medical emergency occurs during the activity.

(ii) I understand that the agents of MND will make a reasonable attempt to contact me as soon as possible in the event of a medical emergency regarding my child.

3b. The powers and authority granted herein may be revoked by me by written notice delivered to MND or any agent thereof who is acting then or who has previously acted hereunder.

4. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** I agree that MND or their agents may use my child's portrait/photograph for editorial purposes and office functions and hereby release Mount Notre Dame and their agents from any liability resulting from such use.

5. **TRANSPORTATION:** I request permission for transportation arrangements as indicated in the application. I acknowledge that we have adequate insurance to cover any claims. I hereby waive and discharge any and all claims, rights of action, demands or liabilities of whatever nature against MND or any and all other person or persons in charge for any injuries or damages which my child, either directly or indirectly, incurs or causes as a result of her being a passenger in a car driven by adults involved in the trip, or as participating in these service activities.

I have carefully read this statement, and my signature acknowledges that I fully understand its content and meaning and authorizes my daughter to participate in the activity being sponsored by MND.

Parent Name (Printed): _____ Parent Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Cell #: _____ Date: _____

Student non-MND email address: _____

Student Signature: _____ Cell #: _____ Home #: _____

Applications are reviewed as they are submitted. We have room for 12 students.
Full payment must be submitted with your application.