The program takes its name from and honors the late Fr. Jon Cortina, SJ, striving to emulate his call, “the truth must be uncovered and justice must be practiced.”

Fr. Cortina taught engineering at the Jesuit university in San Salvador. Further, he used his engineering and pastoral skills to serve the people of Guarjila, a rural mountain town, helping to provide homes, water, and more, believing a person’s integral development was central to a lived Catholicism. Following the brutal twelve-year Salvadoran Civil War, he established Pro-Busqueda, reunified children stolen during the war and adopted into the United States.

Creighton has a long standing connection to El Salvador and Fr. Cortina. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Service from Creighton University in the spring of 2003.

The Cortina Program, founded in 2003, is an intentional living-learning community for sophomores housed in McGloin Hall. Currently, it is home to 54 male and female residents and 4 resident advisors. To accomplish our mission, we strive to accomplish these goals through various programming:

1. Expose students to cultural and social realities locally, nationally, and globally.
2. Facilitate the development of relationships with those who suffer injustice especially in the Omaha community.
3. Promote engagement with, learning from and respect of the poor.
4. Help students analyze and understand ethical perspectives on the nature of justice and the causes of injustice.
5. Promote personal and communal reflection on the faith that does justice.
6. Provide opportunities to act on behalf of justice.

Coursework helps residents to process the experiences of contact and conversation with the poor and marginalized, and to build a well-grounded vocabulary to articulate their views and experiences. During the fall semester, students register in a community only section of philosophical foundations of ethics in order to further refine their understandings of personal and societal ethical responsibilities. In spring, members chose one of several small Justice and Peace Studies courses based in student-led discussion, which helps to explore deeply a specific topic.

The community holds an overnight retreat each semester to foster community. Traditionally, the retreats are held in the first few weeks of the semester and serve as a touchstone for the remainder of the program.

Cortina aims to foster a genuine concern for the other through active and lasting contact with the poor and marginalized through service. Participants visit one of our community partners weekly, volunteering at the same site throughout the semester. In addition, many elect to spend their fall and spring breaks attending and leading week-long trips across the country through the CCSJ and Justice Walking.

The Cortina Community has a Blog! See what is happening on the floor at cucortina.blogspot.com

The Cortina Community often engage in activities and vocations which embrace the promotion of justice and the service of faith after finishing their year on the floor. This includes:

- Post-graduate volunteering
- Doctors Without Borders
- AmeriCorps
- Jesuit and Diocesan Priests
- Student and professional staff in CCSJ
- Study abroad across five continents
- ERIG president
- CSJ vice president
- MAGIS program
- Encuentro student coordinator
- CCSJ service trip leaders
- Justice Walking
- Rostro de Cristo
- Ignation Family teach in Justice for Our Neighbors
- Interfaith Worker Justice
- Doctors, lawyers, and teachers engaging the option for the poor

The Cortina Program is the result of service by a wide number of people

Fr. Cortina in March, Guarjila (1st Day)

Fr. Cortina in Mass, Guarjila (Last Day)

Fr. Cortina in Mass, Guarjila (1st Day)

Fr. Cortina in Mass, Guarjila (Last Day)

Fr. Cortina in Mass, Guarjila (Last Day)

Fr. Cortina in Mass, Guarjila (1st Day)