Justice Walking

Mission
Justice Walking is a program through campus ministry designed for students to come together to explore and share their faith in relation to a specific issue of social injustice. Through the Four Pillars; service, education, immersion, and faith development we hope students grow in understanding of how our faith relates to these issues and enabling us to live our universal responsibility for and with the world's marginalized. It will offer an experience for conversion of hearts and minds with students challenging each other to see these issues of justice and faith with a more Christ-like vision. We envision a group that strengthens each other to go outside their comfort-zone in new ways and to see life from a new perspective.

Four Pillars: following are student reflections on the four components of Justice Walking.

Service:
“Service: “Our time with Rodney has truly been a blessing in disguise. Despite being faced with the end of his life’s journey, Rodney accepted it and lived the best he could. He took notice in small and unnoticeable details, such as the paint on the radio that covered a beautiful piece worth double the original price. He was able to find strength through his faith in Jesus, the memories of his mother and interactions with old friends, Eddie and Randy. This really helped to explain how the simple things in life matter with faith, family, and friends. Over the past few visits with Rodney, we learned to live life and accept its challenges. Being in hospice doesn’t show weakness or is a sign of giving up. It’s a way to accept the fate and let life continue its course in comfort. We will always remember Rodney as a simple man who has fought through life’s challenges and motivates us to not take our lives for granted.”

Sophomore, Colleen Blosser and Senior, Darwin Raquel’s reflection on their journey with hospice patient, Rodney

Immersion:
“The people we saw and sat with and the stories we heard cut right to the place in me that makes me see myself in the life of another. Something that I think moved my world perspective to another place was the trip to the border patrol facility and the trial. Those two experiences awakened me to the realities on both sides of the problem and made me realize that while I should be loving people, I should be working to change systems that force both the pursued and the pursuer to despicable measures.”

Britt Wandrocke, Senior

Faith:
“This trip really emphasized the importance of indiscriminate love. This is what Jesus practiced. It is so easy to pen our frustrations, and pit ourselves against an “enemy” (Border Patrol) but this is not what we are called to do. We must imagine from other perspective and rather than criminalizing the system, criminalizing the structure and its sin. Leo was such an incredible example of this. Additionally, sacrificial love…immigrants make huge sacrifices for their loved ones, as did Christ. I feel a greater appreciation and duty for this type of love. Not only towards my family and friends, but the marginalized stranger as well.”

Justin McCarthy, Junior

Education:
“Each person and experience we had was educational. I have gained lots of perspective around border crossings. I feel that I received a good amount of information on each side of the issue so I may process and make my own perceptions…I was given lots of information and experiences so I can better form my world perspectives.”

Darwin Raquel, Senior