**Please attach this sheet to your essay responses.**

**Service Immersion Joint Application 2017-2018 School Year**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **HR**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of your religion teacher reference:** **Signature of one additional faculty reference:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 **Service Immersion Learning Objectives:**

* Promote students’ understanding of social justice through a Christian lens and explore how to live this out in their daily lives.
* Immerse students in the lives of a population different from their own.This includes learning how to live simply, be grateful for what they have, recognize a greater sense of community, and to be present where they are.
* Develop an understanding of what “solidarity” means**.** We are the keepers of our brothers and sisters; this call to solidarity knows no boundaries: be they physical, racial, or cultural.  There is an important lesson to be learned in walking with others whose stories are different than our own.
* To serve a population in need.  Students will perform direct service throughout their immersion experience.

**Disclaimer:** These trips are more than just days of service. For most trips, there is also a commitment to weekly/monthly meetings. These meetings will help you prepare and learn about the population you will serve. Students are committing themselves to prepare both emotionally and spiritually prior to leaving. **THESE TRIPS ARE CHALLENGING AND WILL ASK STUDENTS TO WRESTLE WITH QUESTIONS OF SUFFERING, FAITH, IDENTITY, PRIVILEGE, AND SOLIDARITY.** No one should think this is a vacation or simply an opportunity to get out of school.

**Selection and Financial Aid**:   
Please circle the immersion trip that you would consider to be your first choice. Cross out any trips that you are unable to participate or are not interested in. If we are unable to place you in your first choice, we would like to know if you are open to other experiences. Please refer to the info sheets for dates and requirements of each trip.

**Trip Name Trip Cost**

**Pittsburgh** (Freshmen Only) **$150**

**Camden, New Jersey $300**

**Browning, Montana $875**

**Chicago, Illinois $360**

**Appalachia** (application available second quarter)

**We offer financial aid for each trip. If you wish to be considered for the aid, please read the options to the right and check the appropriate one.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ If selected I will be able to fully pay for my first ranked choice. Please consider others for financial aid.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please consider me for financial aid. However, if I am not selected for any, please do not consider me for the trip as I am unable to pay for the trip without any aid.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please consider me for financial aid. However, if I am not selected to receive any, I would still like to be considered for the trip. I will work with my family to be able to pay for the trip in full if I am selected.

**Service Immersion Joint Application -ESSAY QUESTIONS**A completed application will include answers to the three questions below (a,b,c) AND an additional fourth essay at the bottom of this sheet on the assigned question for your first ranked trip.

**Essays a,b,c can be answered in ONE 500-700 word TYPED essay:**

1. Tell us about your faith life. Provide an honest assessment of where you are with God. Where do you feel secure and strong with this relationship? What questions do you have about faith? Help us to get a picture of where you are with God and your own faith journey and how this trip might help move you along on this journey. Be honest. If you have a strong faith, then say that. If you don’t, then say so.
2. Immersion trips are all about building relationships with those we are in community with, serve, and meet throughout the experience. What are your strengths and weaknesses when it comes to building relationships and being in community with others?
3. Explain why you are a good candidate for your first ranked choice.  Have you applied for this trip in the past?  Have you had other service experiences in the past?  What should we consider about you that you haven’t already written about?  Would you be willing to consider a different trip if you are chosen for it?  Why wouldn’t you consider another trip if chosen (such as sports or extra-curricular obligations/other interests/etc)?

**Please answer the question below for your 1st ranked trip in a separate 500 word TYPED essay:**

**Pittsburgh** (Freshmen Only)**:** While participating on a service trip in our city of Pittsburgh, you will be challenged to reflect on the issues of poverty, race, and hunger. More importantly, you will be asked to reflect on your call to action as a Christian. Has faith influenced your desire to do service? How? If your faith has not been an influence, what motivates you to want to participate in service? Furthermore, what about Pittsburgh motivates you towards understanding the issues that are prevalent?  
**Camden:** While at the Romero Center, you will be expected to think more deeply about social justice and about poverty in an urban center. You will work with different agencies in and around Camden working to help improve people’s lives. Why do you believe service is important? In what ways has service helped you to grow or change in the past? If you haven’t done much service before, what do you hope to gain from service if you are selected?

**Montana:** The students who have gone to the reservation in the past will tell you that this trip is about digging into their own lives and wrestling with who they are as much as anything else. While service is important, ultimately we use the service experience as a way to examine our own lives throughout the week. What is one question that, if chosen, you would bring with you to Montana about yourself and your life that you might like to explore throughout the week? Explain why this aspect is something you want to examine and what challenges or goals might come with such a question.  
**Chicago:** This is a weekend long urban immersion facilitated by the Christian Brothers. The immersion serves as a tool to be introduced to and/or further explore issues of justice and the reality of oppression. Through partnerships with local agencies, immersion participants are able to get to know people, to challenge stereotypes, to confront fears, to break down barriers that "protect" us from the unknown, the different. What are some stereotypes you have or have heard about those who face the realities of poverty, racism, or other oppression? How do you think you can contribute to breaking down these stereotypes? Why does it matter?

**Central Catholic Immersion Trip: Pittsburgh Project**

***Freshmen Trip***

**Concept**: The Pittsburgh Project Immersion weekend offers an opportunity for freshmen students to gain greater insight into the realities and concerns of Pittsburgh homeowners who are socio-economically disadvantaged. The weekend includes experiences of direct service in home repair, discussions about poverty, education, and homelessness, reflection, and activities. We will be working with schools and groups from all around the region.

**Dates and Transportation**: Students, accompanied by Freshmen faculty members will leave after school on **Friday November 3rd, 2017 at 4:30pm** and will take schools vans to the Northside of Pittsburgh. Once there, the group will use the school vans to drive throughout the city of Pittsburgh for the remainder of the weekend. The group will return to Central Catholic around 4pm on **Sunday November 5th, 2017.**

**Accommodations**: Students will be staying in simple living quarters at The Pittsburgh Project. The space is an old converted Catholic Church and school. There will be a communal bathroom and simple sleeping arrangements. Students will be required to bring their own sleeping bag.

**Cost**: The cost for the trip is **$150.00**. This price covers all meals, travel, lodging and program fees, and a t-shirt. The cost of the trip should not be a reason for a student not to apply.  On your application sheet please check the appropriate box concerning financing this immersion experience. Please see Mr. Goldcamp or Mr. Kinkley before you turn in your application if you have concerns regarding cost.

**Things to Consider**: While all Freshmen are eligible to apply for this trip, only students who exhibit strong responsibility and maturity will be selected. Students who participate in a sports/extra-curriculars will need to check with their coach/moderator about the dates of the trip before applying.

**The Application Process**: All interested students should complete the attached essay/application. Depending on the number of applications, some students will be invited to interview before the final group is chosen.  Payment of $150.00 will be due by November 1st.

**Central Catholic Immersion Trip: Camden, New Jersey**

**Concept:**  Students and chaperones will travel to Camden, New Jersey for an extended weekend at the Romero Center.  Many Christian Brothers schools have partnered with the Romero Center for years, providing a service-immersion retreat experience in one of America’s most impoverished cities.  The Romero Center will provide meals, evening reflection experiences, and speakers.  Additionally, the Romero Center will set up service opportunities for our students on both Friday and Saturday.  In the past these sites have include Habitat for Humanity builds, working at nursing homes, serving meals at homeless shelters, etc.  Service sites are generally either in the city of Camden or in the nearby city of Philadelphia.

**Dates and Transportation:**  Students, accompanied by Brother Tony and one additional faculty chaperone, will leave school on **Thursday, December 7th, 2017** and drive approximately five hours to the Romero center. Students will miss class on Friday.  The group should return to Central Hall around 5pm on **Sunday December 10th, 2017.**

**Accommodations:** Students will stay at the Romero Center in Camden, NJ.  The retreat center provides rooms with bunk beds and shower facilities.  A full kitchen, dining room, meeting spaces, and a chapel are available for our use.

**Cost:** The cost for the trip is **$300.00**. This price covers all meals, travel, lodging and program fees. The cost of the trip should not be a reason for a student not to apply.  On your application sheet please check the appropriate box concerning financing this immersion experience. Please see Mr. Goldcamp or Mr. Kinkley before you turn in your application if you have concerns regarding cost.

**Things to Consider:**  While all students are eligible to apply for this trip, only students who exhibit strong responsibility and maturity will be selected. If a student cannot afford to miss class because of poor grades or attendance, they will not be considered for this experience. Students who participate in a winter sport or extra-curricular will need to check with their coach/moderator about the dates of the trip before applying.

**The Application Process:** All interested students must complete the attached essay/application. Depending on the number of applicants, some students will be invited to interview before the final group is chosen.  An initial, non-refundable, deposit of $150.00 will be due by Wednesday, November 15th.  The remainder of the balance is due by Wednesday, November 29th.

**Central Catholic Immersion Trip: Browning, Montana**

**Concept:** Students will experience a part of the country that is both scenic and unique while living on a Native American reservation. This immersion trip is an established program with a strict timeline including prayer services, reflective/processing time, service in a middle school, presentations on Native American life, and some recreational time built in. Students will also visit museums and the Glacier National Park for a snow-shoeing trip.

**Dates and Transportation:** Students accompanied by Mr. Kinkley and another faculty member will travel by airplane from Pittsburgh to Great Falls, Montana leaving after school on **Saturday, January 27th, 2018**. We will return, flying out of Great Falls Montana to Pittsburgh on **Saturday, February 3rd, 2018**. This trip takes place the week after first semester exams and into the first week of spring semester classes. Students will be missing one week of classes and are responsible for talking to their teachers about work.

**Accommodations:** Students will stay on the Blackfeet Reservation in a new facility near school. The modest living quarters will have several student bunk rooms, 2 chaperone rooms, showers, a kitchen, and a meeting space. Each night students will prepare meals, eat, and clean up together.

**Cost:** The cost for the trip is approximately **$875.00** per student. This price includes all travel, food, and program fees. Students will need to bring limited spending money for any expenses or meals while traveling and for any souvenirs that they would like to purchase. The cost of the trip should not exclude a student from applying. Financial aid is available for all trips.

**Things to Consider:** While all students are eligible to apply for this trip, preference will be given to upperclassmen and only students who exhibit strong responsibility and maturity will be selected. Students will miss a full week of classes and must have the academic strength to be able to keep up with the work they miss during the week. If a student cannot afford to miss class because of poor grades or attendance, they will not be considered for this experience. Again, Students are committing themselves to prepare both emotionally and spiritually prior to leaving. **THIS TRIP IS CHALLENGING AND WILL ASK STUDENTS TO WRESTLE WITH QUESTIONS OF SUFFERING, FAITH, IDENTITY, AND SOLIDARITY.** No one should think this is a vacation week or simply an opportunity to get out of school. Be sure to check in with coaches or moderators for any extra-curriculars with which you are involved.

**The Application Process:** All interested students should complete the attached essay/application. Depending on the number of applications, some students will be invited to interview during the following week before the final group is chosen. An initial, non-refundable, deposit of $300.00 will be due November 17th, 2017 prior to the Thanksgiving break so that plane tickets can be booked. The balance of the trip will be due Monday, January 8th, 2018.

**Central Catholic Immersion Trip: Chicago**

**Concept:** The Chicago Immersion Trip is a weekend long opportunity to serves as a tool to be introduced to and explore issues of justice and the reality of oppression in the city of Chicago. Through partnerships with local agencies, participants are able to get to know people, to challenge stereotypes, to confront fears, to break down barriers that "protect" us from the unknown, the different. Participants will gain insight into how to be leaders for change in their home communities and at Central Catholic.

**Dates and Transportation:** Students, accompanied by two faculty/staff chaperones, will travel in Central Vans to Chicago on **Sunday, February 25th, 2018** and return **Wednesday, February 28th 2018**.  Students will be missing three days of class. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with their teachers and extra-curriuclar moderators/coaches for any work missed.

**Accommodations:** We will be staying at the Br David Darst Center. Linens and towels are provided.

**Cost:** The cost for the trip is **$360**. This price covers all meals, transportation, and lodging.  Students will need to bring limited spending money for any expenses or meals while traveling and for any souvenirs that they would like to purchase.

**Things to Consider:** While all students are eligible to apply for this trip, only students who exhibit strong responsibility and maturity will be selected. Students who are interested should speak with parents, evaluate spring commitments and check calendars before submitting an application. Because a limited number of students can be selected, there will be a strong emphasis on the written application and recommendations from teachers. The group will be based on both the student’s desire to go and the considerations of the personality of the group.

**The Application Process:** All interested students should complete the attached application and answer the Chicago essay. Depending on the number of applications, some students will be invited to interview before the final group is chosen.  An initial, non-refundable, deposit of $100 will be due Friday, January 5th 2018. The balance will be due February 2nd. Please contact Mr. Goldcamp or Mr. Kinkley if you have any questions.