Twenty-second Annual
Summer Mission Experience
(St. Vincent de Paul, Bank Street)
OVER-THE-RHINE, CINCINNATI, OHIO (Two trips)

This one-week summer experience in Over-the-Rhine is co-sponsored by St. Xavier and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP): http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/About_Us/Mission_and_Vision/ We work with the Bank Street location of SVDP. Our Cincinnati SVDP is one of the most active chapters in the country. St. Xavier has been involved with this community for decades and we have learned a great deal from the good people of the neighborhood. This is true, too, of the West End. While this mission 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 Over-the-Rhine and the West End are kind and hospitable. Despite its proximity to home, students are expected to fully immerse themselves in the neighborhood during the one-week experience.

The mission trip will be based on the Ignatian paradigm of Experience, Reflection, and Action. From their service experiences students will learn about the needs of the people who live in Over-the-Rhine. They 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 mission experience is for students to apply the lessons of the trip to their lives back at home and at St. Xavier. Cell phones are not permitted on this trip.

The group will be responsible for cooking some of its own meals. Some meals, however, will be eaten in local soup kitchens. Living accommodations will be simple; the group will stay in the West End office headquarters of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. Simplicity of lifestyle is a hallmark of all of the trips.

Primary work projects include working with clients at SVDP, and working with children at a local summer day-camp, and perhaps working at local community garden. The summer camp involves working with children on various arts and recreation activities. In both cases, the work is important, but secondary to the primary goal of entering into relationships with the local people of Over-the-Rhine. Both trips kick off with a wonderful Mass at St. Joseph's Church in the West End.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Under no circumstances can students arrive late or leave early for this Mission Trip. Make certain to check ACT and/or SAT test dates, sports schedules, camp dates, etc. The trip begins on the noted Sundays at 10:45am, and it concludes on the noted Saturdays at 2:00pm. Students cannot arrive earlier or leave later. If this is an issue, take a look at other trip options for you are not permitted to leave the trip until 2:00pm on the given Saturday.*

WHEN: **Trip #1:** June 3 – June 8 **Trip #2:** July 22 – July 27
TRAVEL: Meet at St. Joseph Church in the West End
COST: $470 per student*

Limited financial aid is available to students who qualify.