

**Fifth Annual
Summer Mission Experience
(International Samaritan)
GUATEMALA, CENTRAL AMERICA**

Founded by Fr. Don Vettese, S.J., International Samaritan <http://intsam.org/> helps to build good communities for the impoverished and those living in and around city garbage dumps. Garbage dump dwellers are some of the poorest people in the world. They barely survive by digging through the city dump for tin and other recyclables to sell. Many eat food discarded at the dump. International Samaritan works with local governments and other non-profits to try to bring basic infrastructure to garbage dump communities. Schools are constructed so children can get an education and be fed nutritious meals.

While in Guatemala, you will be working closely with Francisco Coll School and Santa Clara Nursery near Guatemala City. During the mornings, you will help improve the school by doing construction projects such as painting, rebuilding, remodeling, painting, etc. In the afternoons, you will have the opportunity to work with students, teach English and help take care of the young children in the nursery. You will also travel and make house visits in the Guatemala City area where many of the nation's poorest live in and around a large garbage dump.

Not only will you be assisting International Samaritan in its mission, but you will also be immersed in Guatemalan culture and learn more about life in Latin America. You will be able to visit a volcano, traditional markets, boat across Lake Atitlan and make a special visit to El Salvador to see the Wall of Martyrs and the Monsenor Romero Center's war museum.

You will be staying at a Catholic retreat center, Casa Claret. Each student will have their own room and bathroom. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the staff at the retreat center who will prepare both American and Guatemalan dishes. While working at the school, you will have packed lunches to take with you. At the end of most days, you will be lead through a time of prayer and reflection.

The mission trip will be based on the Ignatian paradigm of Experience, Reflection, and Action. Students 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 their experience in Guatemala. The real challenge of the mission experience is for students to apply the lessons of the trip to their lives at home and at St. Xavier.

Applicants should understand that this trip is **NOT** a vacation. Students are expected to participate and contribute fully to the community experience. Applicants should be prepared for a challenging, yet rewarding, experience. Additional information is available in the Community Service Office.

WHEN: July 14 – July 21
TRAVEL: By air to Guatemala
COST: \$2,330 per student

****Limited financial aid is available to students who qualify.***