The Franciscan Pilgrimage

Purpose

Alvernia University is dedicated to deepening its identity as a distinctive Franciscan university and offers the opportunity to make the Assisi pilgrimage no matter what the faith and spirituality of those applying.

In an effort to broaden and enrich the understanding of the Franciscan values important to the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, to the University, and to the world including...

*Contemplation, Collegiality, Humility, Service and Peacemaking.*

Alvernia University provides funding for staff, faculty and administrators to participate in the Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage through the Assisi Fund.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrims are not tourists. Pilgrims are people who are on a journey designed to take them outside their ordinary, familiar lives into an unfamiliar environment where they have the opportunity to search beyond the ordinary in order to come to know God.

The Leadership Pilgrimage brings together leaders of various faith traditions from Franciscan institutions across the world to reflect on and learn from the vision and values of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

The Pilgrimage includes time for reflection, study, conversation, leisure, relaxation and visits to sacred Franciscan places in Assisi and Rome.
Focus

Each October, the University offers members of the campus community the opportunity to participate in a Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage. Participation is open to those who share in the ministry of education in any way.

There will be preparatory formation for those selected for the pilgrimage; participants will be expected to meet between April 15-June 15 and in September, 2012.

On their return to the ordinary environment, the pilgrims are expected to share their experience with the university community. It will be their role to help infuse Franciscan values into the University structure and help their colleagues better understand and live the vision and values which shape the mission of Alvernia University.

Criteria for Selection

• Employed by the university for at least 24 months and intend to remain at Alvernia for another 24 months.

• Possess good health and be capable of long and strenuous walks.

• Manifest a commitment to share the pilgrimage experience with the university community.

• Read at least one book on the life of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare of Assisi, review other Franciscan books and videos on reserve in the university library.

• Be open to new insights and discoveries.

• Participate in pre-pilgrimage gatherings for the purpose of getting to know other participants and receive answers to their questions concerning travel, itinerary, money, etc.

• Participate in post-pilgrimage gatherings for the purpose of processing personal insights and discoveries.

• Serve as a mentor for future pilgrims.

Application

To apply, please submit the following:

• A cover sheet including: Name, Department, E-mail, Phone #.

• A letter of support from your Dean or Director or immediate supervisor.

• A brief written summary of services you provide to Alvernia University (job description, etc.).

• A written description of what motivates you to make this pilgrimage at this time and how this pilgrimage will benefit you personally.

• A written reflection on how you envision yourself sharing your pilgrimage experience with the university community.

Return your completed application by Monday, April 2, 2012 to: Assistant to the President for Mission Integration and Education Francis Hall 207

The Assistant to the President for Mission Integration and Education will name a discernment committee to review applications and if necessary hold interviews for the purpose of selecting the pilgrims.

Timeline

Participants in the Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage will be selected at least 6 months in advance of the event. Participants for the October 2012 pilgrimage will be announced this April.

Correspondence from the discernment committee will follow with information concerning possible interview dates with the applicants, if necessary.

If you have any questions please e-mail or contact Sr. Roberta McKelvie, Assistant to the President for Mission Integration and Education roberta.mckelvie@alvernia.edu 610.790.2876

For more information regarding our partner Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs please visit their website www.franciscanpilgrimages.com