



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY™

8000 UTOPIA PARKWAY, QUEENS, NY 11439

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Dear Campus Minister or Religion Teacher,

I am writing about an exciting opportunity for your high school student leaders. In July and August 2018, St. John's University will present the second year of *Faith and Service in the City*. This 6-day residential program, presented in three separate sessions, connects students to Catholic and Vincentian traditions in New York City through the study of selected theological topics, immersive faith experiences, and service activities that foster growth in faith and leadership. It is led by St. John's theology faculty and campus ministry student leaders. Last summer, students called the inaugural session a "life changing experience." One declared: "I needed a push deeper into my faith. I can see a big change in myself. I see the world differently, and ask: What must be done to help others in need?"

I serve as the director of *Faith and Service in the City*, and look forward to meeting your students and their families next summer.

We are recruiting Catholic students entering 10th and 11th grades who want to explore the connections between faith and service, and who have demonstrated the potential for leadership in their parishes or schools. I hope you can help identify these students and invite them to apply for a session this summer.

The Lilly Endowment's *High School Youth Theology Summer Institute* program heavily subsidizes the cost of *Faith and Service in the City*. Students pay a program fee of \$100 that covers remaining expenses for the week, including 6 nights room and board on the St. John's campus, admissions to museums and other activities in NYC, and local transportation for the week. If a student has demonstrated financial need, we have a limited pool of scholarship money to help them. If your school, St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter, parish, or diocese can provide assistance to young people for Catholic leadership experiences, you might be able to help them defray part of the cost of *Faith and Service in the City*.

Our program website is www.stjohns.edu/vli, which provides 2018 dates and a student application. You can also find us at Facebook www.facebook.com/FaithServiceCity and see last summer's pictures on Instagram at www.instagram.com/faith_and_service/. For a young reporter's perspective on last year's program, see the following articles in the Brooklyn Tablet: <https://thetablet.org/why-vincentian-values-matter/> and <https://thetablet.org/st-johns-offers-hs-students-an-early-chance-to-lead/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at heaneyhj@stjohns.edu. May you have a blessed Christmas and New Year, and may God bless our work with the young Catholics in our lives.

Warm regards,

Joann Heaney-Hunter, M.S., Ph.D., LMHC, Fellow-AAPC
Program Director, *Faith and Service in the City*
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Counseling