



St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center

At Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mission Trip Contract

The St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center looks to foster spirituality in an individual by working with the poor and marginalized. For this goal to be reached, we ask the participation individual to live simply and in community with the other participants, to examine the causes of social injustice and to experience, in the most “real” way possible, the reality of being a person of a particular culture. We hope that upon returning, the individual retains this perspective and shares it with our Catholic Newman Center community and others who share an interest.

We ask that all individuals participation in our Spring Break Mission Trips adopt and respect the four pillars of Catholic Social Justice. Please take time to read each pillar explained below, and initial in the space indicated.

Simplicity of Life/Cultural Sensitivity

We ask that you: _____ (initial)

- Seek to live the richness of life more simply focused on people and their needs rather than material things
- Strive to remain open to differences of opinion and behavior as they present themselves in encounters with those of another culture

Seeking Justice

We ask that you: _____ (initial)

- Work with the poor in pursuit of solidarity toward the goal of making change in the world
- Strive to become just in your own thoughts, language, and actions so that your work for justice will have credibility

Community Living

We ask that you: _____ (initial)

- Be open and honest with other community members and be willing to share part of your life with them
- Take part in the Trip activities including its meetings, both before and after the Trip
- Not make decisions that affect the group independently of the group and the Trip leader(s)

Spirituality

We ask that you: _____ (initial)

- Be open and respect the beliefs of others and be willing to share your own
- Participate in the community time of prayer and reflection, bringing your own gifts of life and experience and cherishing those of others

Being a part of the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center Spring Break Mission Trip program is both an honor and a responsibility. Please review the following list of regulations and initial in the space provided.

Pre-project Expectations:

Upon acceptance for one of the Spring Break Mission Trips, participants are expected to attend ALL meetings, general and specific for their Trip. Individuals are expected to participate in at least 2 local service projects sponsored by the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center. The meetings and service projects are mandatory and serve to strengthen the group dynamic.

_____ (initial)

Finances

Participants are responsible for the total cost of the trip. Once accepted for a Trip, all deposits are non-refundable. In the event of a Trip that requires air travel, all airline fees are non-refundable. Fundraising opportunities will be available for those who are interested.

_____ (initial)

Drugs/Alcohol

The ST. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center is a Recognized Student Organization of Minnesota State University – Mankato and therefore all members must conduct themselves in accordance with University Policies. Any use of drugs or alcohol, whether or not the participant is 21 years of age, jeopardizes the integrity and future of our Trips. Violations of this policy will result in the termination of his/her participation of the Trip. Participants who violate this policy will be flown home at their own expense.

_____ (initial)

Community Expectations

Dating between participants or among communities we serve is prohibited during the Trip. Participants are also asked to refrain from blatant separations among the group of a few individuals (i.e. Cliques) or any action that results in a breakdown of community. This is in respect for community living which is hindered by individuals who are not open to the entire group.

_____ (initial)

By signing below, participants are accepting the Pillars of Catholic Social Justice and are agreeing to follow the rules and regulations for the Mission Trips.

****I have read and understand the above terms and agree to accept them.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

In consideration of the opportunity to participate and fully recognize that such an undertaking involved an element of risk, I agree on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, executors, and personal representative, to assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation and do hereby release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Diocese of Winona, Minnesota, the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center, it's agents, employees, officers, directors, trip leaders, volunteers, organizers, sponsors, and persons providing transportation to and/or from these activities.

I understand that by participation in this Mission Trip that I represent not only the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center, but also Minnesota State University – Mankato and agree to a behavior that upholds the values and standards of each organization.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____