

“Exploring the Mission”

Arlington Diocesan WorkCamp is an intentional Christian Community that provides an experience of direct service for young people within the boundaries of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

Breaking it Open

As adults at WorkCamp, we are primarily here to serve the young people and make this a great experience for them.

Bring them closer to Christ through our service! One way to reflect upon this mission is to take it phrase-by-phrase:

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| “Intentional Christian Community” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are very intentional about forming a Christian community that is living praying and serving together in a very radical way; <u>Acts 2:42-47</u> is our model & inspiration for this.• All parishes, adults, and young people are prepared in the same manner (common meetings over the same 6 months, etc.) forming one community.• Serving each other and our local community.• Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches onsite every day; we all eat the same food, living in a true community (sharing all things like tools and supplies). |
| “experience” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WorkCamp is more than just talking and learning (in a classroom setting, i.e.) about our faith.• This experience is an example of our Catholic faith lived and the love we have for others through our self-giving and concern for their well-being. We are living the Gospel. |
| “direct service” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Direct service” can be seen as one of the “two feet” of Social Justice; this particular “foot” can be defined as “helping people survive their present crisis”• WorkCamp serves to make the homes of those in need “warmer, safer & drier”, serving to remedy a “present crisis”.• Walking forward with the “two feet”, this “experience” of “direct service” at WorkCamp can and should inspire the participants to engage in “social change” (removing the cause of these problems).• Service to each other extends out to the community and is brought back to the community every day. The challenge of WorkCamp is to always be “other” focused. |
| “young people” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This program is directed towards young people, focused on helping young people encounter the person of Christ through the experience of direct service.• Adults can and certainly have grown in their faith and have been inspired similar to the young people, but the primary role of all adults involved is to make the week an incredible experience for the young people by serving their needs first. |
| “within the Diocese” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We want teens to learn that service begins at home; we serve our local community.• Diocesan WorkCamp allows the young people to see that there is great need in their own neighborhood; that poverty is not only a “far away problem”. |