WHERE WE’VE BEEN:

WELCOME TO SUNDAY

‘professional’ experience a ministerial experience as well.”

been wonderful to have been able to make my first real
in the Franciscan charism. One volunteer shared, “It has
their understanding of the ministry of presence, rooted
program evaluations, 100% of volunteers strongly
community, and simplicity. Volunteers served
colleges, embraced a year of faith, service,
representing five states and five Catholic
Five unique DC Service Corps volunteers,
partnership with a Bolivian organization that accompanies
meet new needs, including facilitation of Skype-based
seven missioners have drawn on time-honored values to
leaders, is deepened each year. During the past year, our
carefully cultivated by generations of Franciscan and lay

Finally, a delegation of young adults visited FMS’ former
Orphanage in Guatemala through an FMS-facilitated trip.
Over the past year, FMS focused on
different way of life,” Jeff shared as he reflected on the
see the ways I’ve been transformed through choosing a
“The retreat gave me the opportunity to continue to
offering an opportunity for individual and communal
artistic creations, coupled with written reflections, invited
social media followers to meditate on the Sunday Gospel,
called “Welcome to Sunday.” Through the series, weekly
of DC Service Corps, created an image-driven series
year, Graphic Design Associate Alessia Catena, a member

WHERE WE’VE BEEN:

World Care Benefit & Celebration

FMS celebrated its annual World Care Benefit and Celebration honoring Fr. Ignatius Harding, OFM with the Anselm Moons award for Fr. Iggy’s lifetime of service to God’s people and decades of mission in Bolivia. The sold-out evening was filled with a remarkable energy, and we were grateful for the presence of friars and women religious from numerous provinces, many returned missionaries and program alumni, and generations of the FMS family.

Save the date for FMS’ 2019 World Care Benefit and Celebration on Friday, April 5 at St. Francis Hall in Washington, DC. We are honored to welcome Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. as our keynote speaker.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

In early 2018, FMS re-established the returned
missioner retreat with the financial support of
Patrick O’Neill (class XVI) and the leadership of
Jeff Sved and Hady Mendez (classes XXVIII and
XXXIX). Gathered for a weekend in the tranquil stillness
of rural Maryland, 12 missioners broke bread, prayed,
and shared important conversations about staying true
to the mission call after returning to the United States.
“The retreat gave me the opportunity to continue to see
the ways I’ve been transformed through choosing a
different way of life,” Jeff shared as he reflected on the
fruits of the retreat. Details about next year’s retreat will be
shared soon. Stay tuned!

OVERSEAS LAY MISSION

In a world that can overemphasize the value of
newness, FMS is proud that some things, like
our presence in Bolivia, Jamaica, and Guatemala,
have remained consistent. Constancy is important
because it means local communities can depend upon
FMS’ reliable support and are less affected by missionary
turnover. It also means that FMS’ Formation Program,
carefully cultivated by generations of Franciscan and lay
leaders, is deepened each year. During the past year, our
seven missionaries have drawn on time-honored values to
meet new needs, including facilitating of Skype-based
program evaluations, 100% of volunteers strongly

FMS focused on
decreasing university partnerships, especially
those with Franciscan universities. For the
third consecutive year, students from Alvernia
University participated in a week-long, FMS-led
service immersion in Washington, DC. Internationally,
Neumann University and St. Bonaventure University
students experienced life at Valley of the Angels
Orphanage in Guatemala through an FMS-facilitated trip.
Finally, a delegation of young adults visited FMS’ former
mission partner in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia for a week of
service immersion in Washington, DC. Internationally,
over 30 North American students participated in a week-
long FMS-facilitated program in the Dominican Republic.

Financial Highlights

Financial Highlights

OVERSEAS LAY MISSION

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

SHORT-TERM MISSION & GLOBAL AWARENESS TRIPS

WELCOME TO SUNDAY

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program evaluations, 100% of volunteers strongly

Five unique DC Service Corps volunteers,
representing five states and five Catholic
colleges, embraced a year of faith, service,
community, and simplicity. Volunteers served
at So Others Might Eat (SOME), Don Bosco Cristo
Rey High School, and in the FMS office. In post-
program evaluations, 100% of volunteers strongly
agreed that participation in DC Service Corps increased
their understanding of the ministry of presence, rooted
in the Franciscan charism. One volunteer shared, “It has
been wonderful to have been able to make my first real
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Finally, a delegation of young adults visited FMS’ former
mission partner in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia for a week of
service immersion in rural university life and local culture.