

You had asked us to write something up about our experience in Flint so here is my writeup.

It is one thing to read the Gospel but it is another to get the chance to experience it in your life. I had the pleasure of spending three weeks with the Servants of God's Love in Flint Michigan and seeing their impact in the community. Between the water crisis and GM pulling out of Flint there was a major economic impact on the city that hit a large part of the city. The Servants of God's Love ministered to the neediest and most vulnerable of the city and allowed us to see and experience the impact they were making on the community. We got to do a range of things including home visits, men's and women's groups. We got to work with the youth group and the St Francis Prayer Center and the East Side mission.

This was truly an eye-opening experience for us and gave me a new perspective on those who are less fortunate than I am. One of the main things that I prayed for was that the Lord would not let my heart be hardened to the circumstances that people were faced with. Over the course of the three weeks we got to know many of the people who we were working with which helped bring a truly human aspect to the trip. I was increasingly able to see Christ in all of those who we ministered to and am very thankful for that.

In addition to this we also got to spend much time with the St. Mary's community in Flint. They were incredibly hospitable and I felt so welcomed by all of them. It was truly a beautiful experience all around. I am so happy for the chance to have experienced this and to have met the sisters from the Servants of God's Love. They are living examples of God's love in the world and I feel blessed that I was able to see their model of Christ's love in Flint Michigan.

Pat Sagsveen

Thank you so much for having us in Flint for poverty immersion! Here is a little bit about my experience!

The generosity and love that Sr. Christina, Sr. Rachel, and all St. Mary's Mission for those in poverty is truly inspiring and rooted in the love of the Holy Spirit. I was very moved by this generosity and love. Going into poverty immersion, I was shown my own hardness of heart towards those who are not the most "attractive" people by the standards of the world. Being around the sisters, and in turn being around those in need, I began to see the true beauty of souls that truly love the Lord. Many of the people that we served were some of the most genuinely joyful people I have met. The love in their hearts comes from the love that God has for them and how it is shown to them through the ministry of the Sisters. My heart of stone has certainly begun to be replaced by a "heart of flesh". I thank the Sisters and community of St. Mary's Mission for a wonderful experience and for the great work that they do!

Again, thank you, Sister Christina!

Mason Yochum

Where to start?

First, I really loved attending the men's and women's groups. Everyone was very hopeful and obviously had been touched by the Lord. They continue to trust Jesus despite all the hardships in their lives. It was very humbling to see their love shine through.

Second, praying for those most vulnerable in the local community, as well as helping them out by cleaning or fixing up their homes, moving much-needed furniture and heaters, and doing a lot of snow removal, was very great as well. Hopefully, they stay warm and safe through the winter.

Third, working with Paul and Deb at the St Francis Prayer Center was a tremendous experience. They do really good work there and are an amazing couple of folks. Hopefully, some seminarians will be able to actually build the beds next time! Also, assisting at the food pantry and Eastside Mission were good experiences as well; I only wish we had been able to do more of that.

Fourth and most of all, the parishioners were AMAZING. Everyone was extremely kind and hospitable. My favorite part was just getting to know the local people who love Christ and His Church so much and have stepped up to the best of their ability and availability to help out. That was the most touching part.

Thank you for the wonderful experience and all the meals we enjoyed with you folks! It was a great pleasure meeting you all! I will miss you very much.

Very Respectfully,

Michael Yandell