

THE PILGRIMAGE

Travel with other Boston area college students to New York to visit various homeless outreach agencies and ministries and learn about homelessness, its causes and some of the proposed solutions. More than 30,000 persons in New York homeless shelters and countless others are homeless and without shelter, according to the Columbia University Medical Center. Throughout the United States, more than 800,000 people are homeless each day and between 2.3 million to 3.5 million are homeless for periods of time.

Homelessness is a complex problem, one that affects many urban and rural communities. The January 2007 Urban Pilgrimage is a chance to learn about homelessness, help out with a soup kitchen and visit a transitional housing site. During the pilgrimage, students will be able to reflect spiritually, theologically, philosophically and politically on the societal causes and concept of homelessness. It is our hope that this experience will help empower us to combat homelessness in our own communities.

COST : \$75
by Feb 6, 2008
Limit: 15 students

Includes travel from Boston and housing in New York. Some meals are provided, but bring a minimum of \$50 for meals and more for fun activities on Saturday evening.

HOUSING

HI-New York (Hostelling International)
891 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY
USA 10025-4403

Phone: 212-932-2300
Fax: 212-932-2574

THE SCHEDULE

Mar 14 – Leave FSC, Arrive in West Windsor, NY
Mar 15 – Visit sites including Common Ground and General Seminary Shelter
Mar 16 – Visit West Harlem and Upper West Side sites -- TBA
Mar 17 -- Holy Apostle Soup Kitchen
Mar 18 -- Discussion and Worship Time
Mar 19 -- Return to FSC

THE SITES

These are the two key sites – there may be others.

Common Ground

<http://www.commonground.org/>

Common Ground's mission is to solve homelessness. We accomplish our mission by moving homeless people from streets and shelters into homes, and by assisting those most vulnerable to homelessness to maintain their housing. We are a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization established in 1990 with programs in New York City, New York's Hudson Valley, and Connecticut.

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen

<http://www.holyapostlesnyc.org/baskhome.htm>

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen has been a symbol of hope and compassion in the Chelsea section of Manhattan for the past 23 years. Housed in the landmark Church of the Holy Apostles, the Soup Kitchen, with the help of 40-50 volunteers and staff, serves over 1,100 hot nutritious meals each and every weekday, including holidays. Anyone who comes to our door is welcome – without question or qualification. Since the Soup Kitchen first began in 1982, it has served over 5.6 million meals.

Soup Kitchen volunteers work Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers assist in serving on the food line, greeting guests, collecting individual meal tickets, handing out drinks, and clearing and cleaning tables when the guests are finished eating.

Application
Urban Pilgrimage 2008
New York, New York, March 14-19

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Year in school _____

Age on Jan 1, 2007: ____ Major _____

Your school and/or chaplaincy _____

Signature of your Chaplain/clergy person (required): _____

Do you need transportation from Boston? If not, how do you plan to arrive in New York on Jan 10?

Please email or attach to this application your brief response to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in this journey?
2. Tell us about a situation or event in which you had to deal with differences (of opinion, culture, class, religion, etc.)
3. Tell us how your faith influence your interaction with your community and wider society.

Return this application by November 13th by mail or fax to:
The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer
63A Highland Street
Roxbury, MA 02119
fax: 617-848-2628

We will send you an email confirmation when your application has been received. Thanks!

learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1.17



- ☛ **Service-Learning Opportunity**
- ☛ **Theological Reflection**
- ☛ **Learn from people who are on the front lines of caring for the homelessness**
- ☛ **Work with other Boston area college students**

For more information contact
Valerie Bailey Fischer, Protestant Chaplain
Framingham State College

508-626-4610 (office – x2)
617-308-3189 (cell)
vbailey@frc.mass.edu



Spring Break Outreach Project

Urban Pilgrimage

Focus on Homelessness

March 14-19, 2008

New York City