

Enter a name that identifies your group or organization

Faith, Vocation and Leadership Community

What are your group's values

As a faith group at a Marianist Catholic university, it is incredibly important for us to be inclusive and welcoming to all people, no matter the faith tradition. Amongst the eight house members, we represent three different denominations of Christianity and value each others' beliefs, just as we plan to do with the rest of the UD community. We want everyone who walks into our door to feel welcome, comfortable and willing to talk to us about faith, moral or vocational issues. We take the University's Commitment to Community very seriously and we want to integrate its principles of the common good, community learning, and community living into everything we do as a FVL/fellow house. Inclusivity is necessary to build relationships and nurture a healthy, vibrant, faith-oriented community.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, what would you like your house to be known for (what would you hope to have accomplished) and how does that relate to the values you have expressed for your group?

Generally, at the end of the year, we want to be known for living out the Marianist charism especially through community engagement, hospitality, service, and maintaining a loving, supportive community. We want to be known as a house that is centered around a deep reverence for God with a focus on our personal vocation and interested in leading on UD's campus. We want to have felt that we have made a difference in terms of bringing a wide variety of people together, and making the student neighborhood feel more connected and welcoming. As a potential fellow house as well, we want to be people our neighbors can depend on to be there if they need help with anything at all. In other words, we would like to be known as the house that prayed for community members, the house that promoted enlightening discussion, and the house that served some really great food!

Each group will be required to create two SMART goals, which relate directly to their values, during the 2015-2016 academic year. Both of these SMART goals will be completed during the Fall semester, and one will be repeated during the Spring semester.

Our S.M.A.R.T. goals are as follows:

- The Commitment to Community calls us to "develop our faith life". So, as a way to fulfill this commitment, four of the members of our group started what they lovingly call "Friday Faith Events," (FFE) as a way for our friends and extended faith community to get together once a week, take prayer requests, and hold a bible study. We would like to continue this idea next year. Many of us have witnessed not only the incredible support we and others have received from this event, but also the necessity of a bible study amongst friends and neighbors. Next year, every Friday from 5:00pm-6:00pm, we will hold a Friday Faith Event. Every Friday two people who live in the house will take charge of running the Faith Event for that week. We will rotate what pair is running the event so every member of the community leads an FFE once a month. We are changing up each pair every week so that we are exposed to other's viewpoints in the planning process and we can learn more about the individual faith life of each member in our house. The schedule for that is below:

During the week before the FFE, the two community members will collect prayer requests via email, text or in person from our immediate external community, which will include our friends and the residents of our Fellow. The leaders for that week will also plan out prayers they think would be inspiring or encouraging for whatever is happening during that week in the lives of our community members. The leaders will also plan out biblical passages and themes they would like to use and share for that FFE. We will invite any and all, including our friends and neighbors and extending into people we know from our extra-curricular activities. Though this may seem vague or general, our intention is to reach out to as many of our communities members as possible, so all feel as though they have a support system somewhere at UD. Every week we will pray intentions and follow the plan the two members have developed. We hope that by creating a consistent prayer/bible study time, it will create a faith community in our neighborhood that continues to support and grow together on a personal basis through meeting every week. We are not all Catholic, so we will also be focused on creating an inclusive faith community for people of all types of faith. Because UD's student body contains roughly 20% of international students whose religious affiliations range from Muslim to Buddhism, our goal is to not just invite those with a Christian faith, but make an effort to welcome those who may believe something completely different. We hope that this intentional time together will allow us in the house to grow in our individual relationships with each other, as well as allow us to get to know other people from our neighborhood. Our goal is for this to be a collaborative and inclusive faith community focused on complex spiritual thoughts, relationships, and ideas.

· Our second S.M.A.R.T. goal is also based on a event we already work on. One of the members of our group, through an interest in developing better cooking skills and creating a community similar to the Marianist in sharing meals and stories, began to reach out on social media for people to come over for a free meal and conversation. This has been offered to any friends who wish to come over and because of this many unique conversations have occurred between people whose paths would have never crossed had it not been for these meals. For example, one conversation involved a member of our group who is a business student and a religious studies graduate student. Together, they were able to connect over their love for homemade bread. Though homemade bread may not seem like the most brilliant of discussions, two people who had not met and come from very different social circles were able to form a friendship and expand their individual communities. Because of the bonding and positive discussion that occurs during these meals, we have decided to adapt the concepts of meals and Marianist principles in our house next year. Once every two weeks, on Thursday starting at 6:30pm, we will specifically target and ask two different student groups that we are involved in to come over for a meal. By doing this, we would be able to introduce new people from different majors or interests, gain new perspect....

Please note that this group ran out of room on their application due to exceeding 3,000 characters. Please be sure that answers are limited to 3,000 characters in your Special Interest Housing application.

What role will each resident in the Special Interest House play in attaining your group's SMART goals? How will you know that your group has successfully attained its SMART goals?

In order to achieve these goals, we will utilize a Community Calendar in our home and potentially digitally. This calendar would have all of our events, who is planning them, and who will shop for materials or food. At our Sunday Brunches (our community meals just for our house members), we can discuss what needs to be accomplished for the week, plan shopping trips and events and check-in on everyone's well-being. In addition to this, we will have a FVL Facebook page to post events and updates for people who do not live in our community. With these two methods, we believe we will continue to stay in communication and on track to complete these goals. Each resident has a clear place in this conversation, as we will all continue to collaborate on FFEs and continue to be in conversation on the week's meal. Every week at our breakfasts we will be checking in on our individual timelines and how the planning is going and assist each other if necessary. We will know if we have successfully attained our S.M.A.R.T. goals by the fact that we have hosted every event that we have planned and continued to engage in our community.

How will your group regularly communicate with your organizational and/or house adviser (and how frequently)?

We can communicate through e-mail, dinners/coffee meetings or by personal meetings. One to two times a month we will communicate and update our advisor on our success and struggles, as well as whenever the advisor inquires or sees fit. Of course, our advisor is always welcome into our home to discuss our progress and our lives in general.