



FRANCISCANS FOR THE POOR

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WHERE DO I BEGIN IN PLANNING A MISSION TRIP?

What is Franciscans for the Poor?

Franciscans for the Poor offers one-week mission trips for high schools, youth ministries, campus ministries, scout troops, adult groups, and families. We also can offer shorter trips, service days, and hosting of your retreat program.

How do we start planning?

Contact the Director by calling 513-761-1697 x184 or e-mail at MPeebles@FranciscanMinistriesInc.org and request a brochure to share with your pastor, adult leaders, principal, students, family members, or scout master.

How much does it cost?

All groups are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. The week is not booked until deposits are received. All payments are non-refundable. In order to secure the Tau Community House **for your group only**, you must guarantee a minimum of **27 people**. Otherwise, the Tau Community House opens to additional smaller groups.

Price per week	Price per night*
\$275/week	\$55/night

**For groups who prefer to do a 6-night program, add this additional cost per person to the rates. This option is very limited and must be approved by the program director in advance. This option may not be available during June, July, and August.*

Who can chaperone?

Adult chaperones must be age 21 and have completed their Diocese' Decree on Child Protection. Trip coordinator and chaperones must sign off on an Adult Pledge of Support confirming this for their adult leaders. Adult/College groups and youth groups will not be combined. For High School aged groups the adult-student ratio is 1:6. The JrHi ratio is 1:5.

How many people can we bring?

The Tau Community House sleeps up to 35 participants. **You must guarantee a group size of 27 people in order to secure the House for your group only (or you may pay the fee for 27 people and bring a smaller group).** Groups of <27 people must be willing to share the week with another smaller group.

What if someone cancels?

Franciscans for the Poor **cannot issue refunds**. However, if a participant needs to cancel, another participant can be sent in his/her place. Please contact the Director for details.

Who can attend?

Typically, Franciscans for the Poor hosts youth groups who are at least in the 7th grade and minimally age 12. Some exceptions can be made with Director approval. JrHi groups must have a student-chaperone ratio of 1 chaperones for every 5 students. High School groups must have a student-chaperone ratio of 1 adult chaperone for every 6 students.

Do I have to be Catholic to make the mission trip?

No. Franciscans for the Poor hosts all denominations and non-religious groups.

How do we travel to the Franciscans for the Poor?

- **By car:** The Tau Community House is located in the City of St Bernard, inside the Cincinnati city limits. It is 1 mile from I-75. Groups are responsible for providing their own transportation. Once you arrive at the Tau Community House, all work sites are <20 miles from the Tau Community House. Gas tanks typically only need to be filled once during the week.
- **By airplane:** We are approximately 20mi/30min from the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG) and 60mi/60min from the Dayton Airport (DAY) – although travel time to Tau from either airport is comparable. When you arrive at the airport, group leaders are responsible for renting vehicles to transport their group.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Where will we live?

Tau Community House, formerly the Convent at St Clement Church - 4523 Park Place, St Bernard, OH 45217

What are the sleeping accommodations?

Participants have separate floors for men and women at the Tau Community House. Each bedroom has 2-5 beds, fans, and a sink. Community bathrooms are located on each sleeping floor with 2 toilets and 2 showers in each bathroom. Depending on the number of participants, chaperones may be assigned to their own bedroom. Separate rooms for adults and teens. All beds are twin size. To allow ample rest to be able to work the next day, we suggest that lights are out by 11pm each evening.

What is there to do at Tau Community House?

The Tau Community House has an array of simple games and activities available at the house and in the neighborhood:

- Table tennis, air hockey, ping pong, foosball - in the basement
- board games, card games, jig-saw puzzles - in the community dining room
- St. Bernard City Pool is available in the summer – free of charge
- St Bernard City Park is 1 block north and offers a playground, ball fields, basketball courts, and Frisbee golf
- a limited supply of Frisbees, whiffle ball, and kick balls are at the House - some groups choose to bring their own

Are linens provided?

Each participant is provided fitted and flat sheets, a pillow with pillow case, and one quilt. We provide wash cloths, bath mats, bath towels, hand towels, and kitchen linens. To keep our costs low, prior to departure, each participant will be asked to: launder their bath towels; re-make his/her own bed with fresh linens; assist in preparing/cleaning the House for the next group. FFTP Staff launders all sheets.

What will we eat?

- Breakfast is self-serve and consists of fresh fruit, toast, oatmeal, and dry cereal. Beverages include hot tea, coffee, hot chocolate, milk, orange juice, and apple juice.
- Lunch is self-pack and typically consists of a turkey, ham, or PBJ sandwich; a piece of seasonal fruit (ie: banana, apple, orange); carrot/celery sticks; a salty snack; cookies. Franciscans for the Poor provides coolers, lunch bags, and ice packs for use. **Please bring a water bottle.**
- Supper is community cooking – 3-5 people at a time take turns cooking the main meal. Menu choices are sent to the group leader and s/he chooses the evening meal weeks in advance. Popular choices include: Lasagna, Spaghetti, BBQ Chicken, Fajitas, and Tacos. Vegetarian options are available upon request.
- Some snack items are available for after work - groups are encouraged to bring their favorites to share.
- The evening of the speaker, FFTP offers make-your-own ice cream sundaes.

WHAT KIND OF WORK WILL WE BE DOING?

Direct Service Worksites:

These include day care centers, schools for the mentally and physically disabled, soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and transitional housing. These sites you will have the opportunity to work and visit with those you serve one-on-one. See “Links” on our website for a sample list of worksites and links to their websites.

Indirect Service Worksites:

These include food pantries, warehouses, or housing rehab such as painting, yard work, cleaning, moving, and minor home repairs. The work done at these sites indirectly serves those in need. Sometimes the client is present and working side-by-side with our volunteers. See “Links” on our website for a sample list of worksites and links to their websites.

Will I work at the same site every day?

What makes Franciscans for the Poor unique is that you will be scheduled to work some place different every day. This allows participants an opportunity to discern where their gifts may lie and how they can utilize their gifts back home at other social service worksites. The sites scheduled for each week are based on the needs of the community. We do our best to provide a variety of indirect and direct sites. We highly recommend participants serve at a combination of indirect and direct service sites. If a group desires the same site all week, we will try to accommodate with enough notice; however, we cannot guarantee this option.

What hours will we work?

Most worksites require groups arrive by 9am and stay until 3:30pm. A lunch break is scheduled by the worksite. Some worksites' hours are slightly different (ie: 10am-4pm or 9am-2:30pm).

How will we know where to go?

We will provide each driver with directions to the worksites each day. You are encouraged to bring a GPS as a back-up.

Will I choose where I work every day?

The group leader sends the Director the list of people coming on the mission trip and how many are in each vehicle. The Director then schedules the participants at various worksites in Cincinnati. For example, a group of 20 people may be divided into 4 vehicles of 5 people each. The drivers sign up first where s/he will serve (the group will be given 4 choices of worksites each day according to the 4 cars) and then the participants sign up where they will each work each day. It is okay for drivers to take different students each day, but groups sharing the Tau Community House with another group must take only students from their home group in their car each day. Leaders may assign sites if they so choose.

WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WORK?

Will there be 'down' time?

Free time is scheduled from the time you return from work until supper at 6pm. Some participants use this time to shower, nap, read, pray, play games, or swim. If you're scheduled to cook the evening meal, those participants need to allow ample time for supper to be served by 6pm.

Will there be time to site-see in Cincinnati?

If a group chooses to sight see, you are welcome to explore on your own, or we can provide directions and options for some attractions. These include:

- **St. Mary's Basilica** in Covington, Kentucky - www.covcathedral.com
- **St. Peter in Chains Cathedral** in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio - www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org
- **Ault Park** provides a beautiful view of the Ohio River. Weather permitting, groups can pack a picnic lunch and eat there one evening – see Director for details - www.cincyparks.com/parks-events/central-region/ault-park/index.shtml
- **Krohn Conservatory** has free admission and only open until 5pm. Groups would go there right after work and eat supper later either at Tau Community House or the Picnic in the Park - www.cincinnatiiparks.com/krohn-conservatory
- **The Cincinnati Art Museum** is free of charge and a \$4 fee for parking. Only open until 5pm (except Wednesdays open until 8pm) - www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org
- **Carew Tower** offers a \$2 elevator ride which provides a view of the City. Only open until 5pm, so groups who choose to do this should plan on a late supper - www.cincinnatiusa.com/attractions/detail.asp?AttractionID=83
- **Cincinnati Reds Baseball** - some groups choose to take a free night and attend a professional baseball game when the Reds are in town. Check their website for current schedule and ticket prices. Group sales are also available - cincinnati.reds.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp?c_id=cin
- **Cincinnati Zoo** - some groups choose to go to the Cincinnati Zoo the day of departure. Group tickets are available - www.cincinnati-zoo.org
- **Skating on the Square** - downtown Cincinnati on Fountain Square offers ice skating for a nominal skate rental and admission fee. This is typically offered nightly from Thanksgiving - January 31st - www.myfountainsquare.com
- **Music on the Square** - downtown Cincinnati on Fountain Square offers a live band most nights of the week during the summer. Free admission - cincinnatiusa.com/Attractions/detail.asp?AttractionID=559
- **Graeter's Ice Cream** known nationally and shipped on dry ice to Oprah - www.graeters.com
- For groups who choose to add a day to their trip for site-seeing, we recommend this website for more information on activities available in Greater Cincinnati - www.cincinnatiusa.com/Attractions/index.asp?AttCatID=40&season=holidays

WHAT PROGRAMMING DOES FRANCISCANS FOR THE POOR OFFER?

Speaker from the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homelessness:

Franciscans for the Poor provides the opportunity to spend the evening with an individual who has experienced homelessness. This speaker comes to the Tau Community House and tells his/her personal story. S/he talks honestly, openly answers participant questions, and offers insights and suggestions on how one might help those currently experiencing homelessness. Free of charge.

Supper with the Sisters:

The participants are invited to St Clare Convent for a Supper with the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the sponsors of the Franciscans for the Poor. Participants will have an opportunity to be in conversation with the Sisters about their experiences serving and to ask the Sisters questions about their own vocation and experiences. Free of charge.

Digital Scavenger Hunt:

Groups may choose to participate in a digital scavenger hunt for a fun, team-building opportunity. Scavenger Hunts can be held at a local park (during nice weather), on the St Clare Convent grounds, or at the Tau Community House. Free of charge.

Ice Breakers:

Franciscans for the Poor staff is happy to lead ice-breakers for groups upon request.

IS THERE OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER?**Mass:**

Groups may choose to attend Mass during the week. Please notify the Director so FFTP programming can be scheduled accordingly. Mass times for neighboring churches are:

- St. Clement's Catholic Church - both 7am and 8am. Located around the block from the Tau Community House - many groups choose to attend before going to work at least once during the week - www.stclementcincinnati.org/Parish.aspx
- St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, downtown Cincinnati - weeknights at 5:15pm. Some groups choose to attend after work, but before supper - www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org
- Bellarmine Chapel at Xavier University - weeknights at 5pm (*during the school year only*) - www.bellarminechapel.org
- Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Avenue, Norwood, OH - weeknights 7:15pm - www.olhsc.org
- Holy Cross Immaculata Church, 30 Guido Street, Cincinnati, OH - Monday evenings at 7:30pm - hciparish.org

Morning Launch:

The Franciscans for the Poor Staff is happy to offer a morning reflection activity at 8am. Some groups choose not to do a morning reflection and instead attend the 7am or 8am Mass at St Clement Catholic Church. Groups are welcome to do their own morning reflection(s) - please contact the Director to make arrangements.

Evening Reflection:

Groups are encouraged to lead evening reflections during the week. The Franciscans for the Poor Staff provides some resources onsite for this; however, groups are highly encouraged to plan some prayer options before arriving and to bring any resources with them for the week. Opportunities for Mass or evening reflection at St Clare Convent Chapel or St Clement Catholic Church are available upon request. Contact the Director to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Reconciliation is offered, if clergy is available, next door at St Clement upon request. Contact the Director to schedule.

Time for the Blessed Sacrament:

Time before the Blessed Sacrament is available, if clergy is available, upon request. Contact the Director to schedule.