



Coordinator-Participant Meeting Form

Meeting: Retreat and/or Immersion Reflection, Discussion, and Planning
Type of Meeting: Individual or Group
When: February

General Description

At this point in the program, participants have variously participated in or are getting ready to participate in their retreat and immersion experiences. About half the group has been on an immersion trip already. Of the remaining half, many (but now all) will have had their experience of the Spiritual Exercises. Some people, however, will have done neither of these yet. People in the latter category will spend more of their time in this meeting looking ahead to an upcoming retreat or immersion trip, and they will benefit from hearing about the experiences of others. These important components of the program require preparation and a variety of follow-up conversations. This month's conversation, like the forthcoming May/June conversation, is set aside to give you time to talk with your participants (individually or collectively) about their immersion trip and/or retreat and, where appropriate, how they overlap. Depending on who has done what, you will need to adapt the agenda according to the needs of the participants.

Purposes of this meeting

- 1) To provide an opportunity to reflect upon and articulate the meaning of a recently completed immersion or retreat.
- 2) To invite those who entered the program having already completed an immersion or retreat to remember the experience, share it with others, and integrate it into the ICP experience.
- 3) To prepare people for their upcoming retreat or immersion trip and/or
- 4) To integrate more intentionally Ignatian spirituality, the Jesuit commitment to a faith that does justice, and the participant's work in the University.
- 5) To determine what kind of follow-up the participant might need (e.g, learn more about justice and solidarity in workshop 4, talk to students or colleagues about their immersion and/or service experiences, enter into ongoing spiritual direction now or after the program, exercise daily prayer and/or the Examen of Consciousness, etc.)
- 6) To look ahead and see what needs to be done/discussed regarding the retreat or immersion that is to come (as the case may be)

Recommended agenda for the meeting: (adjusted to fit the activities of the participants)

- 1) Invite the participant(s) to share what s/he has done most recently in terms of a retreat or immersion. If nothing has been done recently or at all, s/he could be invited to talk about a past retreat or immersion experience or about plans, expectations, hopes, and anxieties (as the case may be).
- 2) Explore the experience more deeply by asking open-ended questions like: *What meaning did it have for you? What three things do you take away from it? What questions emerged for you? How does the experience better prepare you as a partner in the mission of Jesuit higher education?*
- 3) Ask: What connections do you see among Ignatian spirituality, the commitment to justice, and Jesuit education?

- 4) If talking about immersion, you might explore the distinctions between immersion trips and service trips and the significance each has for our students.
- 5) If talking about the Spiritual Exercises, you might ask question like: What “week” are you in? How has paying attention to your inner movements and feelings affected you? What gives you consolation? What brings about desolation? What was it like to have a spiritual companion [in the person of the spiritual director]? Etc.
- 6) What planning is required for components yet to be completed (e.g., the retreat or immersion)?
- 7) Note that next month’s meeting is dedicated to more intentional planning for the Mission Project.
- 8) Please conclude the meeting by asking if there is something that the participant needs from the Executive Director or from the program to enhance his or her experience.

Coordinator Follow Up:

As always, a brief update to the Executive Director (Ed Peck) is most helpful. In this case, it would be helpful to know which experience(s) you discussed and with whom, as well as any notable high points (or low points). Please let Ed know if there are any issues that emerge for the participant that need to be discussed, particularly if you have some concern that there was some sort of deficiency in the participant’s experience that needs to be discussed or followed up upon.

Thank you in advance for completing this progress report and for all that you do for the program. Please email the report to Diane McTier at dmctier@icolleagues.org for Ed Peck by the end of January.