

Adele Social Justice Project

The Marianist Social Justice Collaborative is exploring means to increase involvement of young adults, to create immersion experiences for Marianist family members, and to more specifically articulate the relationship between the Marianist charism and social justice. The Adele Social Justice Project (ASJP) has been identified as one way to meet some of these MSJC goals.

The Adele Social Justice Project (ASJP) focus is to provide contemporary resources that explicitly connect Marianist spirituality/charism & justice through:

- Offering a weekend immersion on October 7-9, 2005 for “young adults” (ages 20-40) that will invite, challenge and motivate participants to deepen their commitment to social justice. The weekend will emphasize the spirit of Adele in addition to a general Marianist Charism and dedication to Justice/Catholic Social Teaching. This pilot immersion experience will be held in the Over-the Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio with housing at the Findlay Street S.M. community.
- The ASJP will also be producing written resources: primarily, a simple booklet/binder that will include reflections, readings and prayers and “letters” that would be helpful to the weekend participants, and others, in looking at the call to social justice within a Marianist context. The exciting aspect of this is that we will be creating and developing a Marianist “rhetoric” for social justice that will be inclusive and enthusiastic by using Adele’s life as an example through emphasizing such themes as incarnation (our dignity and giftedness), community and family spirit, hospitality, living simply, and passion.

On June 17 and 18th, 2005, a planning meeting for the ASJP occurred in Cincinnati, Ohio. In the true spirit of a Marianist brainstorming, discussion and decision-making process, we gleaned the best elements of Marianist Charism, Social Justice and Adele’s life to lead us in the development of the immersion experience and the written products.

ASJP is being coordinated by several members of the steering committee of the MSJC: Leanne Jablonski FMI, Bob Donovan SM, Jim Vogt and Jeff Campbell (MLNNA). Laura Libertore, a lay Marianist and former Marianist Voluntary Service Communities director has been contracted to lead in the development of the immersion experience and resources. Julie Reiter, a recent University of Dayton graduate who understands Marianist spirit and justice experiences will serve as project assistant. Jeff Campbell, who coordinates social action for a region of the Diocese of Cleveland, is also a UD graduate and former MVSC volunteer as well as a member of

We know that Adele (de Trenquelleon, founder of the Daughters of Mary) was a voluminous correspondent and daughter of a French aristocrat, but did you also know that:

- she didn’t let obstacles stop her from loving God and her neighbors and working at her “*cher projet*”, her dear project the Daughters of Mary,
- she embraced the uncomfortable,
- she created community by teaching local women to sew and read and feeding the poor from her home,
- she lived with sickness and limitations – and still kept giving,
- and she developed a modern approach by emphasizing the role of women and the laity while organizing with a group of men (what became the Society of Mary) to take care of others and to keep loving God with her “small heart”.

“O my God, my heart is too small to love you, but it will see to it that you are loved by so many hearts that their love will compensate for the weakness of mine.” -- Adele

the Myriam Community. Emileah Aguilar, a junior at UD, will also be available to assist the project with her perspective on Adele's life and Marianist Spirituality.

To coin and slightly adapt a familiar phrase of Father Ferree's when defining social justice, the Adele Social Justice Project hopes to 'build community for the common good.'

If you are interested in the Immersion Weekend in October, or know someone who might be, or just to get more information, contact Laura Libertore at asjlibertore@yahoo.com or Jim Vogt at jimvogt2@yahoo.com. A phone number for the project will be announced at a later date.