



FAITH, SERVICE, COMMUNITY

A TRANSFORMATIVE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

ANDREW KETCHUM, LV 09-11

The LV experience continues to have a profound impact on my life and pushes me to live a conscious life of faith, service and community.

Since transitioning from my years with Lasallian Volunteers I have stayed in a very similar ministry, starting as a teacher and campus minister and eventually growing to my current role as director of Mission and Ministry at Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School.



Andrew, center in maroon shirt, surrounded by students during a service project.

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God... Immediately upon becoming an LV, I couldn't help but be struck by the notion of God always being with us, and that all we need to do is remind ourselves of God's presence. To me this is central to my own personal **faith** journey. I challenge myself and my students to never "look" for God but, rather reflect on the areas of our lives where God was present, even if we were unaware of it at the time.

The spirit of **service** that was instilled in me through my LV experience has continued to push me in my

vocation to serve students through education and faith formation. Spiritually, my experience with the Lasallian charism has continued to shape my personal faith formation as well as the experiences that I offer my students and school community.

Finally, **community**! During my two years as an LV, community was the greatest struggle as well as the greatest joy of my experience. At first it was difficult to form connections with people who initially I did

not seem to have much in common with, and it was a struggle to transition to meet the expectations of living in a Brothers' community. However, the connections and joy that I took away from my time with the Bishop Kelley community has had an immeasurable impact on my experience. Community is something I crave and something that sustains me in the work that I do. Whether it is with my wife, my family, my friends, colleagues or students, the idea of community is central to who I am as an educator and as a person.

Andrew served as an LV at San Miguel School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and currently works as director of Mission and Ministry at Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Lasallian Volunteers, this story is one in a series of reflections by LV alums on how the LV experience has impacted their lives. Additional reflections can be found at www.LasallianVolunteers.org.

