

Salesian Gospel Roads

Adopt-a-Missionary & Adopt-a-Gospel Roads Programs

The Salesian Gospel Roads program began in 2001 when 28 young people gathered in South Orange, NJ, for the first service-work retreat. Since then, more than a thousand youth have engaged in countless hours of Christian service during more than 50 Gospel Roads retreats in 11 U.S. states and 4 foreign countries.



GR II Newark



GR II Newark



GR I Stony Point

Gospel Roads was an experience of a lifetime. I came into it as a timid, shy person, and emerged at the end of the week as a faith-filled and completely different person.

Samantha

Participant | Gospel Roads I Tampa, 2011

Salesian Gospel Roads (GR) is a series of Christian service retreats.

During the course of a GR week, young people live and work side-by-side with their peers. Through the week's work, these young people have the opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ in the faces and hearts of the poor and less fortunate by walking the road set out by Him in the Gospels.

During the week, these young missionaries learn new things about themselves, grow closer to Christ, and grow closer to their peers, all while serving the underprivileged in the spirit of Saint John Bosco and his Salesian Family.

Each Gospel Roads retreat is an intense nine-day mission experience. It is a program that introduces our youth to serious work for the poor in response to their Christian call as disciples. Gospel Roads teaches the foundational concepts of social justice through reflection on service in the community.



There are three main elements to these programs:

Community

The program builds community as individuals come together to serve as a group. They pray together, eat together, and socialize together. Gospel Roads promotes the Church's mission to share the Good News with the world, and to do so as a community.

Work

We work in the community with the poor. Our participants in the program go to social services sites in urban areas and help the poor in concrete, tangible ways, including: serving meals, running summer camp activities for at-risk youth, visiting the sick and infirm, and constructing homes for the homeless.

Prayer

The Gospel Roads program is an opportunity for the participants to grow in their faith. Each day includes Mass, morning and evening prayer, reflection, and journaling about their faith. In addition, there are opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation.

Why Gospel Roads Matters

Upon completion of the Gospel Roads Program, young Salesian leaders are prepared to return to their homes and communities. Through their participation in the Gospel Roads, our young people are challenged to use what they learned to positively change society. They are directed to take leadership roles in schools, parishes, and in their local community. The GR missionaries are challenged by those they serve to reevaluate their understanding of the diverse cultures and economic situations of the poor in this world.

The lasting effect of the Salesian Gospel Roads program for the participants is that it challenges them to see the world in a different light because they have new insights into the realities of diversified communities. They are challenged to ask themselves, "What am I called to do with my life and how can I best serve others?" The program's ultimate goal is to provide the church with future leaders in Christian service. The Gospel Roads programs emphasize and encourage vocational orientation for our missionaries.

For the 11 years the Salesians Gospel Roads Program has been running, we have seen a history of successfully helping adolescents and young adults grow in Christian maturity and the development of service skills. It helps the participants to understand their own lives as a gift to be shared with others in society, especially the poor and those most in need.



GR III Haiti



GR I New Orleans



GR I Tampa

At each location, we gather young people to take on the responsibility of being missionaries to the poor and vulnerable. Our participants come from diverse backgrounds and are given the opportunity to work as a team, utilizing the gifts of each and every young person.

*I learned to love others, to help the poor,
to have God within everything I do.*

Nicole

Participant | Gospel Roads III Haiti, 2011

Presently, GR serves in the following locations:

Gospel Roads I

New Orleans, Louisiana
Tampa, Florida,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Birmingham, Alabama
Washington, DC
Stony Point, New York
Los Angeles, California
Toronto, Ontario

Gospel Roads II

Newark, New Jersey
Chicago, Illinois
Port Chester, New York
New Orleans, Louisiana

Gospel Roads III

Tijuana, Mexico
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
San Miguel, El Salvador



GR I Leeds

*Cheap, but not very efficient
form of transportation!*

What We Need:

The basic needs to implement each of our Gospel Roads programs are varied depending on the site and the mission. However, the typical costs include:

Transportation to and from service sites
Food and Lodging for missionaries
Supplies for projects undertaken

Learn more about Gospel Roads at:

www.gospelroads.org

How You Can Help

Costs Involved:

For our summer 2012 Gospel Roads 1 and II programs, the registration fee is \$225 per participant. For international Gospel Roads III programs, registration fees are \$400 per person. Fundraising efforts help to subsidize the actual cost to run such programs. Due to transportation costs, the actual costs can be between \$600-\$800.

The registration fees cover room and board, transportation, meals, and supplies for the week.

We try to keep costs as low as possible for all participants, however, we desire to reach even those young people that cannot afford the registration fees, but still desire to answer the missionary call. In order to accept all participants, regardless of their financial situation, we have begun a new **Adopt-a-Missionary** and **Adopt-a-Gospel Roads** programs.



GR I Leeds



GR III Haiti



GR I Philadelphia

Adopt-a-Missionary

The **Adopt-a-Missionary** program gives individuals the opportunity to pay the registration fees for a Gospel Roads missionary in need of financial assistance.

For \$225, you can support a young missionary in our Gospel Roads I or Gospel Roads II programs.

For \$400, you can support an international missionary in our Gospel Roads III program.

Young people who are interested in being the beneficiary of the Adopt-a-Missionary program are requested to apply to have their fees fully paid, or lessened.

We request for both the donor and missionary to keep one another in their prayers in a particular way during the Gospel Roads experience. After the GR program is complete, the missionary will be able to write to the donor to explain what they did during their mission experience.

Our desire is to find financial support for each and every young person that wants to take part in a Gospel Roads program but may not be able to for financial reasons.



GR I Philadelphia

Learn more about **Adopt-a-Missionary**

If you are interested in supporting a young missionary participating on one of the Gospel Roads programs, please contact Mary Elise:

You can also send a check made payable to "Gospel Roads" to the Salesian House, addressed to Mary Elise's attention:

Mary Elise Zellmer

Director of Development

(973) 761-0201, ext. 8

mezellmer@salesianym.com

Salesian House

315 Self Place

South Orange, NJ 07079

How You Can Help

Adopt-a-Gospel Roads

The **Adopt-a-Gospel Roads** program gives individuals an opportunity to sponsor an entire mission site. By adopting a particular GR site, you can supply housing and meals for the participants, transportation, and/or building and work supplies. Your donation would also provide meals for the hungry and significant financial support for the local charities.

Each site's costs vary based on a variety of factors, but we do realize the need to be fiscally responsible and try to keep our costs as low as possible, while still providing an effective retreat experience.

Your generosity helps us to ensure that young people throughout our province have the chance to participate in a Gospel Roads program and answer Christ's missionary call to go out and serve.

Estimated costs for each Gospel Roads program, based on past figures:

Gospel Roads I Sites

Estimated Cost for Meals:	\$1,800
Transportation: <i>(includes rental vans and gas)</i>	\$1,800
Housing:	\$2,700
Building & Work Supplies:	\$300

To donate all of the estimated costs for a GR I program, the total cost is: \$6,600

Gospel Roads II Sites

Estimated Cost for Meals:	\$1,800
Transportation: <i>(includes rental vans and gas)</i>	\$1,800
Housing:	\$2,000
Building & Work Supplies:	\$1,300

To donate all of the estimated costs for a GR II program, the total cost is: \$6,900

Gospel Roads III Sites

Estimated Cost for Meals:	\$1,000
Transportation at Site: <i>(does not include airfare)</i>	\$500
Housing:	\$1,500
Building & Work Supplies:	\$3,000

To donate all of the estimated costs for a GR III program, the total cost is: \$6,000

Learn more about **Adopt-a-Gospel Roads**

If you are interested in supporting a Gospel Roads program, for some or all of the costs, please contact Mary Elise:

You can also send a check made payable to "Gospel Roads" to the Salesian House, addressed to Mary Elise's attention:

Mary Elise Zellmer

Director of Development

(973) 761-0201, ext. 8

mezellmer@salesianym.com

Salesian House

315 Self Place

South Orange, NJ 07079



We spent our days helping children at a day camp, renovating the local youth center, cleaning out buildings that have been vacated since Hurricane Katrina, and building houses in the community for people who have struggled for nearly six years after the disaster. For this one short week, we were the face of Jesus for these people and their community, but little do they know, they were the face of Jesus for us, too.

Michelle

Participant | Gospel Roads I New Orleans, 2011



Salesians of Don Bosco | Province of St. Philip the Apostle
Serving the Young and the Poor in the Eastern USA and Canada

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Salesian House | 315 Self Place, South Orange, NJ 07079 | 973.761.0201
www.salesianym.com | www.gospelroads.org

