



## **Lacordaire Academy Project Justice Mission Statement**

Students participate in this course during the second half of their senior year. This program is intended to address contemporary issues of Catholic Social Teaching and enable students' compassion to come alive in caring service, creative education, and principled action. Through their work in the community, personal reflection, and examination of case studies there is the possibility for change as the students come to understand the connection between love of God and love of neighbor. *Project Justice* is meant to help students understand the value of serving and fostering life-long involvement in meeting the needs of others.

The students are welcomed by the agencies as valuable resources whose efforts directly contribute to the achievement of the organization's own mission to work to deliver essential services to its clients.

Along with the service component of the program, the course work of *Project Justice* is intended to promote critical thinking and help the students develop life skills – in particular autonomy, confidence in advocating for self and others, and the ability to perceive and perform necessary due diligence such as contacting agency personnel, researching requirements and job responsibilities, and making transportation arrangements.

The program is designed so that students will complete 60 hours of service in a variety of settings selected to give them the opportunity to interact with people from a wide range of social, economic, and educational levels. They are assigned to serve at three different types of social agencies in order to gain first-hand experience meeting the needs of others. The social agencies include early childhood education centers, assisted living and nursing homes, centers for the mentally handicapped, and centers for the physically handicapped.

The program work commences in January during the week of midterms, continuing into Catholic Schools Week, and is ongoing with the students reporting to assigned agencies on selected Fridays throughout the second semester concluding with scheduled dates in May.