

***Navigare* - School of Catholic Leadership**

A Gap Year in Spain with the Disciples

International Program

Madrid, Spain, 2021-2022

Description

Navigare is a *School of Catholic Leadership* when, after high school or college graduation, young men spend a year in Europe becoming Catholic leaders and men fully alive. As a gap year right after high school or after college, this *International Program* offers an opportunity to encounter European Catholic culture, devote time to prayer and adoration, and master a second language.

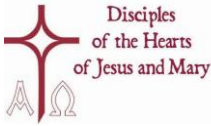
The great question of the year is: What will make my life beautiful and great? The answer will come little by little as we follow in the Master's footprints while journeying together in friendship, exploring the beauty of European Catholic culture and following in the Master's footprints. We hope to be "surprised by an encounter with Christ"; to experience that "there is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him" (Benedict XVI); and to learn that only when we encounter Jesus Christ, do we become fully alive: our life receives "a new horizon and a decisive direction".

St. John Paul II gave this as his personal witness: "Looking back and remembering those years of my life, I can assure you that *it is worthwhile dedicating oneself to the cause of Christ* and, out of love for him, devoting oneself to serving humanity. It is worthwhile to give one's life for the Gospel and for one's brothers and sisters!"

During this year, the students live with the community of the Disciples, verify their vocation, become bilingual in Spanish and English, and learn the virtues of leadership. In Latin, *Navigare* means "to sail" out into deep waters on an adventure with Christ.

"Having thus been set over the administration and management of the grain trade, Pompey sent out his agents and friends in various directions, while he himself sailed to Sicily, Sardinia and Africa, and collected grain. When he was about to set sail with it, there was a violent storm at sea, and the ship-captains hesitated to put out; but he led the way on board and ordered them to weigh anchor, crying with a loud voice: "*Navigare necesse est; vivere necesse non est*": **To sail is necessary; to live is not.** By this exercise of zeal and courage attended by good fortune, he filled the sea with ships and the markets with grain, so that the excess of what he had provided sufficed also for foreign peoples, and there was an abundant overflow, as from a spring, for all."

(Plutarch, *The Parallel Lives: The Life of Pompei*, 50)



Goals and Practices

1. Cultivating Human Excellence, Friendship, and Leadership

- Learning and developing the virtues of leadership
- "School of Rhetoric"
- Great Books (Dostoevskij, Shakespeare, Cervantes...)
- Great Movies. Watching and learning to watch great cinema (Big Fish, Babette's Feast, Shadowlands, A Man for All Seasons...)
- Great Music: Attending concerts and developing your own talents (Haydn, The Messiah (Handel), Requiem, Mozart-Mahler)
- Drama: representing a play with other youth
- Leading an apostolate according to your talents: Hikes, sports...

2. A Path of Vocational Verification, living with the Disciples in their House of Formation and following their same pace and rule of life.

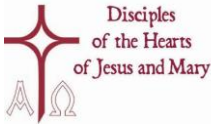
- Participation in the practices of the Disciples (discussions, celebrations, adoration, book forums, movies)
- Helping in an office of the community (sacristy, kitchen, etc.) and participating in weekly chores
- Organizing one international dinner every trimester ("Symposium")
- Participating in the practices of Kairos, spiritual exercises, pilgrimages

3. Growth in the Life of Piety (True Devotion)

- Growing in your friendship with Christ with a tailored and solid rule of life (daily Adoration, Holy Mass; Confession available at the house; Rosary...)
- Embracing your faith with initiative and ownership, overcoming peer pressure
- Deepening in your faith, learning how to teach it.
- Great Spiritual readings: *Three Rebel Monks, Set All Afire, Screwtape Letters...*
- Spiritual Fatherhood with a Disciple priest

4. Gaining a Deep Knowledge of the Spanish and European Culture by visiting historical sites, cities, mountains, movies, arts and traditions.

- **Spanish as a Second Language** through a complete "linguistic immersion". The student will become bilingual by the end of the year. According to his knowledge of Spanish he will do a **Intensive Spanish course, and courses on Liberal Arts - Philosophy.**
- **Study of the European and Spanish Culture.** Focus on famous Catholic figures such as Queen Isabel, the "Catholic Queen"; D. Juan de Austria...
- Short Trips. Preparation of visits and discussion of fruits ("Eureka"): Madrid, Ávila, Toledo, Salamanca/Segovia, El Escorial, Sevilla/Córdoba



- Great Pilgrimages and outdoors activities (Sep: Shrine of Our Lady; June/July: Way of St. James, Alps)
- Great Trips (may change according to Covid-19 restrictions). Preparation and discussion of fruits: Fall: Prague / Spring: Paris / Holy Week: Rome

Leadership Characteristics

As a School of Leadership, *Navigare* challenges its students with the following five goals, aimed at forming great leaders who:

1. Seek the Truth

- Plan and lead three discussions of Big Questions (vocation and decision; salvation and happiness; creation and evolution)

2. Persevere in the Good

- Prepare, train and run a 5k, 10k, Half-Marathon, Marathon, or similar

3. Embrace the Catholic European Culture

- Pass a Spanish official test at the end of the year

4. Imagine a future for others

- Plan a trip to Europe and lead a tour in Spain

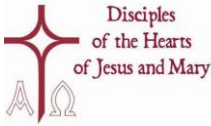
5. Evangelize and Model

- Leadership in an *Apostolate*: Lead Nazareth Youth group.
- Leadership at a *Stella Maris* school: **lead one "Art" after school**: music, sport, book club, English conversation...

Commitment of the Student

1. Daily rule of life with the community of the Disciples following their schedule and discipline. The Student will be a member of the family, invited to participate in all the activities, especially at the daily mass
2. Morning: Spanish or Liberal Arts Classes
3. Afternoon: study, service, sport.

Technology: Students are able and encouraged to call their family frequently (Skype conferences, Face Time, etc.) according to the schedule of the community. The Residence has a protected internet connection. Students are encouraged to learn a virtuous approach and limited use of the internet, according to their call to greatness. They will learn to avoid harmful internet distractions and they will be invited to frequent internet "fasting", which promotes reading, conversation and human interaction. They are not encouraged to bring electronic devices, but they are permitted to bring a phone.



Expenses

1. The community will provide for:

- All daily expenses (lodging, food, studies in Spain, Spanish Academy, Ecclesiastical University, activities of the community, visits to museums with the community, plays, planned hikes, etc.)
- Pilgrimage trips to different places in Spain and Europe.

2. The student will provide for:

- Fundraising to assist in general expenses
- Expenses related to his student Visa (trip to LA, taxes, etc.)
- Flight to Spain (Denver-Madrid, August 2021)
- Flight to America (Madrid-Denver, July/August 2022)
- Personal expenses (special food, books, gifts, clothes, personal trips, etc.)

3. *Navigare* asks each student to raise \$2,500 in partnership funds.

- If the student is not able to raise this amount, the Disciples will work with him for other fundraising options. The value of the whole program is approximately \$12,000 / student. The partnership funds each student raises is about 1/5 of the total cost of the program. The rest of *Navigare* funding comes from organizational fundraising.

Personal Fundraising

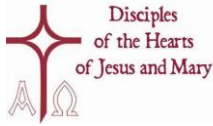
Navigare will provide students with materials to assist them in their personal fundraising efforts. These are made available to each student once their application has been submitted and approved.

Fundraising resources will include:

1. Information about how and where to fundraise
2. Tools such as sponsorship letter templates to reduce the time and effort required

Contact Information

1. **Denver:** Fr. Luis Granados (luisgranados@dcjm.org); (720) 556-4119
2. **Spain:** Br. Joe Paolucci (josephpaolucci@dcjm.org)
Br. Tomás Sastre (tomassastre@dcjm.org)
Address: Residence – “Colegio Stella Maris – La Gavia”
C/ Peñaranda de Bracamonte, 9 – 28051 Madrid
<https://stellamariscolegio.com/>



Preparation / Application Process and Deadlines for Spring 2021

January 30th - Application and Recommendation Letters

- Write 500-1,000 words explaining why you'd like to join *Navigare* and send it to Fr. Luis Granados (luisgranados@dcjm.org)
- In addition to that send two letters of recommendation: one from your parents, one from a relative/friend/mentor
- Meet with Fr. Luis to discuss the application

February 5th- Resolution of the Scholarship

- Congratulations! You have been accepted to *Navigare*!
- Need help raising the \$2,500? Contact Fr. Luis to explore fundraising options

February 10th- Request your passport!

- Ensure you have a valid passport that doesn't expire until the end of 2022

February 10th - Spanish Visa Preparation

- Prepare your documents for the Spanish Visa application
- See the Protocol of *Navigare* prepared by Br. Stephen Suddjian
- Schedule Appointment at your Spanish consulate
- Anticipate an expense of \$200**
- Visit your Spanish Consulate for details (for Denver: [Los Angeles website](#))

March 1st - All Visa Documents Prepared

- Visit your Spanish Consulate (for Denver: visit [Los Angeles website](#) to verify)
- Interview with Br. Joe Paolucci and Fr. Carlos Granados

May/June - Visa Interview

- Visit your Spanish Consulate for your Visa Appointment
- Book your flight to Spain!

August 1st – Visit your Spanish Consulate (**pick up the passport with the Visa**)

August 20th - Fly to Spain (Denver to Madrid) and Begin the Journey!