

# FAITH INTEGRATION

**DEVELOPING A SERVANT'S HEART IN ONLINE BSW STUDENTS**

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# Integration of Christian Faith and Social Work Value of Justice



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE STUDENTS WELL

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- Ensuring they are empowered to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom
- Leaves an imprint upon the student
- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior (2015 EPAS)
- Dignity and worth of the person and importance of human relationships (Core Values).



# THE FINE BALANCE OF LOVING STUDENTS

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- Christian perspective of accountability and second chances
- Values and ethics of the social work profession
  - Dignity and worth of the person and importance of human relationships
  - Gatekeeping

# WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I LOVED STUDENTS

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- The story of Joe's second chance gone wrong
- The story of Erica's need for gatekeeping

# LOVING STUDENTS:THE BENEFITS AND APPLICATION

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- When in doubt, always ask yourself “How will my decision affect the other party?”
- Personal and professional growth
- Application to Field Practice
  - Commitment to Clients
  - Self-determination
  - Integrity of the profession

# TEACHING AND PRACTICING PRAYER

- Foster (1988) says about prayer:

We do not pray for people as “things,” but as “persons” whom we love. If we have God-given compassion and concern for others, our faith will grow and strengthen as we pray. In fact, if we genuinely love people, we desire for them far more than it is within our power to give, and that will cause us to pray. (p. 40)
- Student satisfaction increases when they experience faculty support (Tompkins, Brecht, Tucker, Neander & Swift, 2016).
- Hartwick & Kang (2013) found that when teachers pray for their students, they are more effective teachers and more cognizant of their students’ needs.
- Praying for and with my students has increased my empathy for them and provided a model for them as future practitioners (Barker, 2013).
  - Written Prayers
  - Virtual Meetings
  - Instruction

# SELF-CARE

(HARTWICK & KANG, 2013)

## Breath Prayer (Foster, 1992)

### **Psalm 116:7**

Inhale slowly and deeply through your nose as you pray to yourself *“let my soul be at rest again,”*  
(you can pause here and hold your breath for a count, or continue...)

Exhale slowly through your mouth as you pray to yourself *“for the Lord has been good to me.”*

### **Psalm 85:8**

Inhale slowly and deeply through your nose as you pray to yourself *“I will listen to what God the Lord says;”*

(you can pause here and hold your breath for a count, or continue...)

Exhale slowly through your mouth as you pray to yourself *“he promises peace to his people.”*





# SELF REFLECTION AND ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

(BOEHNER, 2012; STARAL, 2003)

## Prayer of Examen - St. Ignatius of Loyola (facilitated during virtual field seminar)

- ❑ *Become aware of God's presence.* Thank God for His provision, and those experiences during your week that you are most grateful for.
- ❑ *Reflect back over your week in field placement with intention.* Pray for discernment, and that God will shine His light on a significant experience or encounter. Write about the details of what happened, and specify which competency it correlates to.
- ❑ *Consider your response.* How did you feel, what did you think, and how did you react during this situation? Identify any ethical dilemmas you encountered, and how those were resolved.
- ❑ *Contemplate areas where growth is needed.* What do you need to learn from this experience; in what ways could you have responded better? Pray for God's guidance, and also forgiveness where needed.
- ❑ *Resolve to follow God's direction, as you pray for the week to come.* Pray over the people and events that will be part of your field experience next week, and commit those to God.



# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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## What it is

Pedagogical method to encourage students to apply course materials and knowledge in creative ways to their local community (National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, 2012).

Structured course that

1. Prepares the students for the servanthood experience
2. Grounds the learning in theory
3. Helps them process the learning afterwards

# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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Examples:

Giving free music lessons to at-risk youth

Mentoring developmentally disabled children

Creating life story books for elderly

Serving at a soup kitchen

Setting up a social media site for a local community outreach

Organizing a charity walk.

# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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What it is not

Field Instruction which takes the form of an extended practice experience at the end of the academic journey under direct supervision monitoring growth towards identified learning objectives (Schelbe, Petracchi, & Weaver, 2014).

Simple required volunteer work

# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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## Biblical Basis:

“What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:14-26, NIV)

# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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## Evidence-based

- Broadens views, values, and inclination to work with new populations and different agencies (Young, Lee, & Kovacs, 2016).
- Helps avoid later issues with field instruction that may result from anxiety and/or fear of the unknown (Tyler, 2012).
- Allow students to practice theory application and clinical skills in real life settings (Schelbe, Petracchi, & Weaver, 2014).
- Improves levels of cultural competency (Conley, Deck, Miller, & Borders, 2017).
- Makes strong links apparent between research and practice (Venema, 2015).
- Impresses upon the student civic responsibilities (McWhorter, Delello, & Roberts, 2016).

# SERVANTHOOD LEARNING

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## Current Initiatives

- Program Research
  - Service Learning best practices
- Global Servanthood Certification
  - Psychology of Personal Living, Social Welfare Organizations, Servant Learning, Global Servanthood
  - Servant Site Collaboration
  - Missionary Tuition Discount
- Indigenous Servanthood Micro-Certification

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