



MEGHAN MEROS, *prayer missionary and woman of service*

When passion and calling coincide, one can only be so fortunate. Experiencing this first hand was the way for La Reina High School alumna Meghan Meros, '04. Meghan currently serves as the Associate Director of the Franciscan Mission Service, an organization that prepares and supports lay Catholics to aid in two-year international, one-year national and one to two-week short term mission opportunities, assisting marginalized and impoverished communities across the globe.

As the Associate Director, Meghan is the day-to-day operations leader, responsible for coordinating short-term domestic and international trips. Originally from Thousand Oaks, she received her bachelor's degree at Goucher College, majoring in Spanish and English. She also holds a master's degree in Latin American Studies from American University.

Meghan has always had a kinship with the SND community and its ministries. She fondly remembers Sr. Leanne Hubbard as her junior religion teacher. Meghan believes that at La Reina, she learned "to approach all things with integrity, compassion, realizing that God is always near. No task is too small for God not to

care, and no task is too great for people not to be mindful of their impact on others."

As a woman of service, Meghan has fused her passion with purpose. During the winter of 2015, Meghan served in Germany as a "prayer missionary." The Taizé community hosted continual prayer among major European cities, serving as a prophetic witness for peace and healing in a time of violence. This September, she will join other Taizé prayer missionaries in Cairo, Egypt, for a Pilgrimage of Trust, promoting unity among Middle Eastern and Western Christians.

Just like her current position emphasizes a place "where lay people can work for justice, peace and hope" (Franciscan Mission Service Statement), Meghan considers herself blessed to live that out every day. Remembering her time at La Reina while observing the SNDs as a shining example of living out their acts of service to the students she says, "In getting to know the SND community, something clicked for me. In the sisters, I saw models of mature faith and friendship with God, and I realized that that faith and that friendship were open to me, too."