

# LIFE IN COMMUNITY

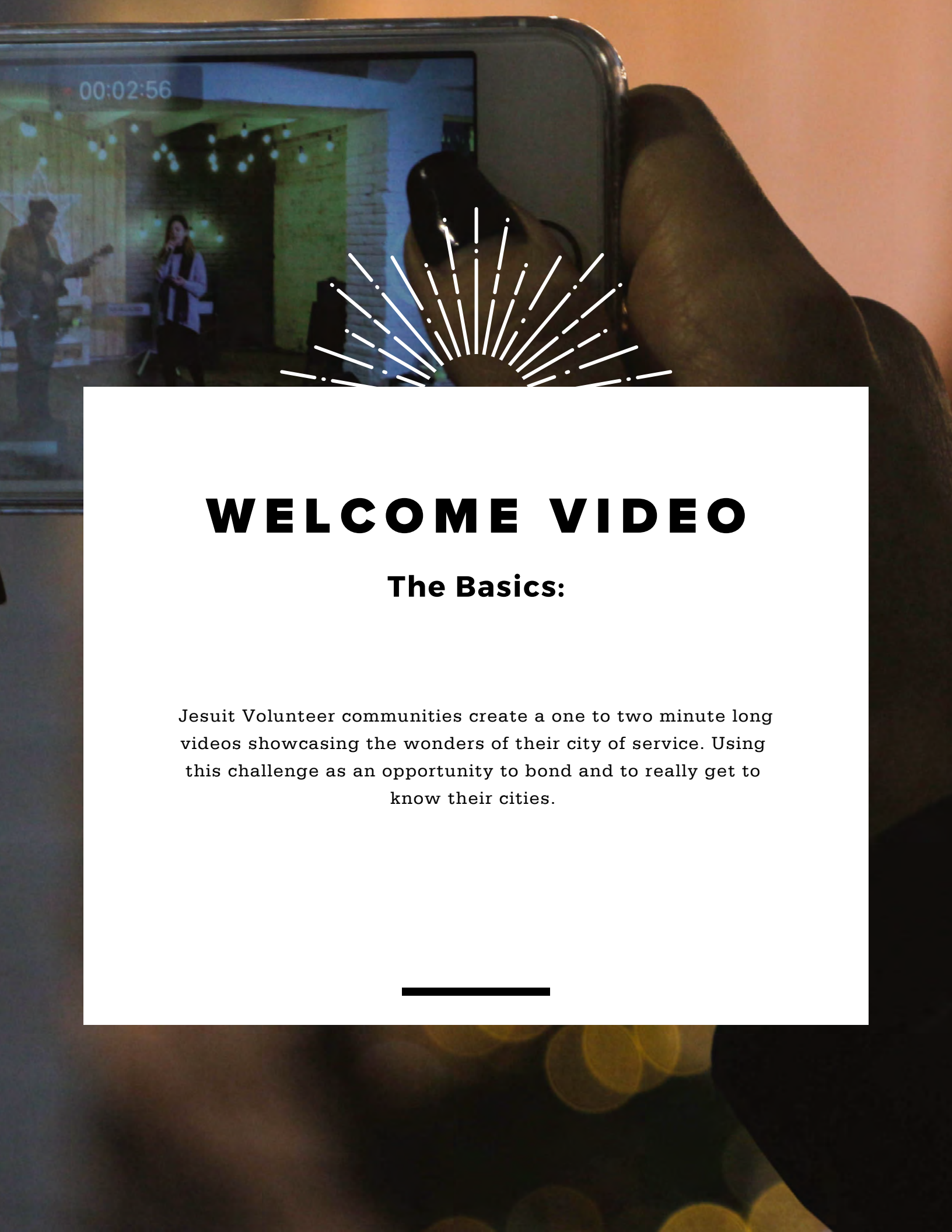
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DECEMBER 2018

Which value are you most  
excited to nurture and develop?

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# WELCOME VIDEO

## The Basics:

Jesuit Volunteer communities create a one to two minute long videos showcasing the wonders of their city of service. Using this challenge as an opportunity to bond and to really get to know their cities.

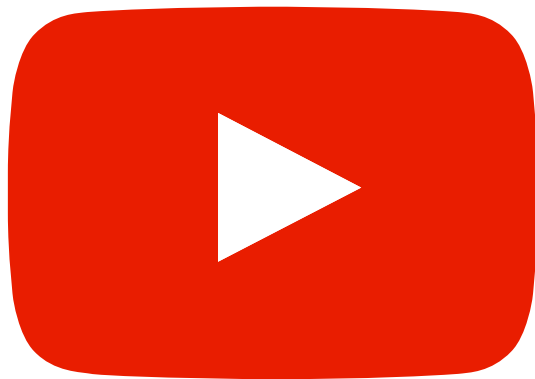
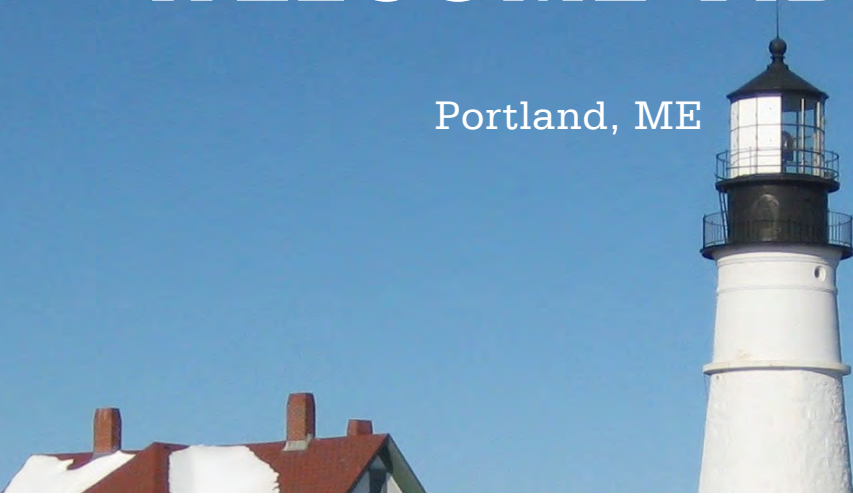




PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, SJ  
HOUSE

# WELCOME VIDEO

Portland, ME



Watch Now



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a row of colorful Victorian-style houses. The houses have dark wood siding, white trim, and various colored accents like blue, red, and yellow. A white sunburst graphic is centered above the text. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background.

# HOUSE BLESSING

## The Basics:

This activity is an opportunity to bless the intentional community house that Jesuit Volunteers live in each year. Together, the JV community is setting hopes and intentions for the rest of their term of service.

The blessings vary in structure, and do not necessarily have to be religious in nature. It can be written in just about any format (paragraph, stanzas, etc.).

After a community writes its communal blessing, they display it in an artistic way: it could be imposed over a photo, slipped into a collage or have some artwork drawn around it.

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CASA PEDRO ARRUIPE

# HOUSE BLESSING

Santa Clara, CA

Oh God,  
We ask you to bless this house  
of humble servants.

Grant us with spiritual nourishment, the ability to find joy in the simple, a fire in our hearts burning brightly for the justice our world desires, and the friendships in our community.  
Help us each and every day to meet those we serve with open hearts as we follow the examples of your past disciples such as St. Ignatius of Loyola and Pedro Arrupe.

Grant us the wisdom, patience, and grace to discern the ways your goodness leads us.  
May we embrace the joys and triumphs of this year, as much as the hardships and challenges for both are invitations to draw nearer to you.

All these things we ask of you, through your son, Jesus Christ

AMEN



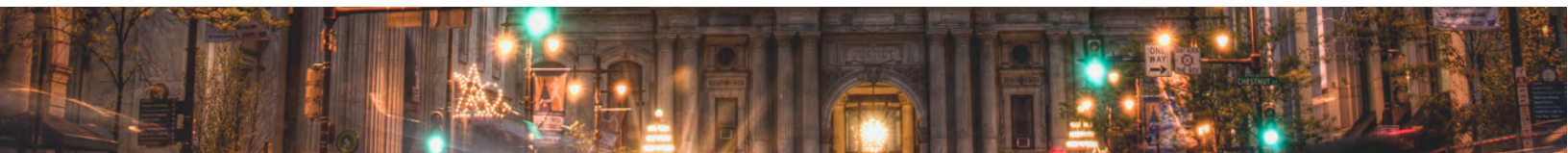


THOMAS MERTON HOUSE

# HOUSE BLESSING

Philadelphia, PA

When I slip on a new pair of shoes, my heels rub against the leather and form blisters.  
The tightness constricts my toes and pricks at my soles.  
But these are my "everywhere" shoes:  
I take them hiking, running, shopping, to work, traveling, and so on.  
Throughout my journeys, they accompany me.  
Over time, the worn leather becomes soft and caresses my ankles and heels.  
The rips and tears of the hemming remind me of my broken beauty.  
This is what love is: it is worn, broken, and rough, but mendable, soft, and intimate.  
Let us join in our brokenness and grow in our softness.





Our house blessing, explained: Victor, a Jesuit Volunteer serving in Philadelphia drew inspiration from writing this blessing after the Muslim mystics Omid Safi and Rumi. He saw being part of a community as a process, metaphorically as “putting on shoes”. The four values of JVC are evident in this blessing.

- 1) The core value of simple living is clear in that the writer wears the same pair of shoes throughout the whole story: at first, they appear to be very uncomfortable, but over time the simplicity of wearing the same pair of shoes grows on him fondly.
- 2) Community can be seen if one notices the changing in wording of the writer: in the beginning couple of lines, the writer speaks in “I”. Near the middle line, the writer acknowledges the other’s company: “...they accompany me”. Finally, in the last line, the poem ends with the pronouns “us, our”, signifying what community is at the very end of the day.
- 3) Spirituality itself is a journey, and we all find it our own way. Whether you are a person of faith or not, spirituality is important because it asks us to challenge ourselves and rediscover what makes us truly human. How does spirituality connect with the poem? Throughout our journeys, we discover and rediscover many different, unique, beautiful things about ourselves. When we take the time to reflect on ourselves and our own values, we can begin to see ourselves in a radically different way, such as acknowledging our broken beauty!
- 4) Simply put, social justice can be summed up in the phrase, “to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes”. If we were to “try on” different shoes other than our own, it would be uncomfortable, probably even painful! When we learn to walk alongside another and be the lamp at their feet, we can see that we all are deserving of love and kindness to one another.





# **SCARY STORY NIGHT**

## **The Basics:**

Jesuit Volunteer communities must create a scary story that takes place in your city or your intentional volunteer house. Together, hosting a scary story night, volunteers read their crafted pieces along with other scary stories of their choice.





CASA MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

# SCARY STORY NIGHT

San Francisco, CA



A photo from the San Francisco Jesuit Volunteer Community at their scary story night. They took the additional challenge and dressed up (murder mystery theater style)





# GRATITUDE JARS

## The Basics:

Volunteers create gratitude jars in an effort to encourage intentional reflection about giving thanks and praise.

Whenever something that makes them feel particularly thankful come along--they can write it down on a strip of paper, fold it up, and drop it into the jars.

Communities can read them together at the end of a month, read during a rainy day, or perhaps wait until the end of their term of service to read through all the moments of thanks.

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Dear Sacramento,

With your bounty of trees and one-way streets, you have provided a safe haven to nurture us in our growth over the past four months. With bike friendly, grid system roads, we've navigated smoothly to and fro the places we've needed to go. With a library filled with books and a diverse population of people you've expanded our knowledge of the world. With a light rail just outside, you've provided endless laughs over costume ideas that never came to fruition. With full markets and cute coffee shops, you've given us a deeper appreciation for the farm-to-fork capital. The least we can do is say thank you!

Thank you for our places of work that not only provide us with a rich opportunity to grow, but serve hundreds of people each day who otherwise would be left to fend for themselves. Thank you Loaves & Fishes, the Clubhouse, Quinn Cottages, Ps7, and Waking the Village for the continual challenge you bring to us both individually as we sort through what our interactions mean and communally as we learn to support one another in our ministries. These opportunities have afforded us with so many moments of joy and sorrow that have fired up a need for change on an individual and national level. Thank you for bringing so many people together to help initiate these changes and fight for those most vulnerable because it is not solely an individual effort. Thank you for our support within the community who immediately respond to our crises and others crises around us. Thank you for the warm welcome, laughter filled nights, and moments of realization that we've been granted thus far, for we all know there is much MUCH more to come as we continually explore this city further.

With Love,  
Casa Iggy





JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

*DARE TO CHANGE*

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