

**“TFE will change your whole life no matter where you are coming from. I didn’t expect anything beyond an average retreat but I am a different person now.”**

**THERESE DUNBAR**

Class of 2021



**THE FRANCISCAN EXPERIENCE**

FAITH · THEOLOGY · SERVICE

The Franciscan Experience Summer Institute  
is an outreach ministry of



FRANCISCAN  
MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY  
UNIVERSITY



**“Something that I think teenagers struggle with today is not having a strong faith community. A lot of times I thought that keeping strong in our faith would mean that we would have to do it alone. At times in my life as a teenager, keeping my faith strong amidst a lot of people has sometimes made me feel like I stood out in a negative way. Other times, I have learned to conform to the crowd around me and just keep quiet. At TFE, I found a strong circle of faithful friends that I did not even realize existed. I was able to learn so many things and I now know that having a faith community as a teenager is imperative to our lives as Christians.”**

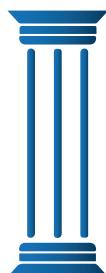
**ELLA KATE AUCOIN**  
Class of 2021

# THE FRANCISCAN EXPERIENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE

is a unique opportunity for rising juniors and seniors in high school to build community upon the foundation of their faith while cultivating the seed that Christ has planted within each one of them.

**Around 30 high school students are invited for a six-day, overnight summer immersion experience guided by faculty, staff and students of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.**

## THE PILLARS OF TFE SUMMER



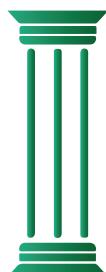
### FAITH

Young people set a foundation of the Christian life through an **encounter** with Christ through the Sacraments, the rich Catholic tradition and personal prayer.



### THEOLOGY

Young people use faith and reason to fuel a **passion** and **commitment** to be witnesses of Christ. Our renowned theology professors at FranU teach what we believe, why we believe it and how it makes a difference.



### SERVICE

Young people experience the importance of service, particularly to the poor and marginalized, when discerning their personal vocation. Simultaneously, they reflect on the importance of **relationships** with those they serve and the **dignity of life**.



We wish to build a culture of vocation. This is a culture where each person strives to channel their lives to the pursuit of holiness - all things that are objectively good, beautiful and true. A flourishing life can only come about by holistic formation of the person through an integrative approach using works of mercy, intellectual formation, and spiritual development. This ultimately helps the participants discover their personal call from God.

## VOCATION

Just as God desired to be with us through the Incarnation, we are created to be in relationship with one another. We know that we are most influenced by the people we surround ourselves with. This institute gives young people an opportunity to build a supportive community with each other while emphasizing the impact of the relationships we form with those we are called to serve.

## COMMUNITY

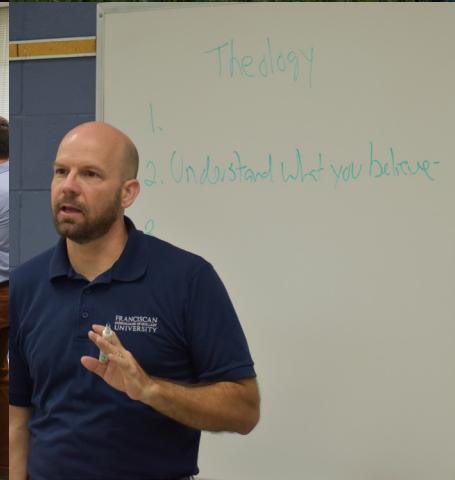
## WHY ST. FRANCIS?

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of FranU and we aim to support our University's mission to educate and form Franciscan servant leaders. Furthermore, St. Francis serves as a model of a deeply rooted servant of Christ devoted to living the gospel, serving the poor, and surrendering to Jesus Christ, thereby providing us with an inspiration for our mission of forming missionary disciples.

We want to go "beyond the garden statue" and show the true radical side of St. Francis. Young people explore his tremendous example of being a servant leader consumed with virtue and pursuing the call given by Christ.



We also adopt other Franciscan saints to intercede for us, including St. Clare of Assisi and St. Padre Pio.





# JULIA COFFEY

Class of 2021

“TFE is one of, if not, the most wonderful and best Catholic service-oriented program I’ve attended. They have changed my life for the better and brought me closer to my heavenly Father, brother, and friend. My favorite aspect of TFE was the emphasis on community.

One moment where I felt a close encounter with Christ was working at the St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter with the women and children. I remember their beautiful names and faces. When I was leaving, all the children ran up to me and hugged me goodbye. They told me thank you for everything, and the biggest moment was when one of the moms told me not to change my heart because I was one of the good ones. I felt their love as well as God’s; I also felt the grace of charity. It was insurmountable!”

# WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE? • • • • •

Every morning a theology lecture is provided by our renowned FranU theology professors. This is just one area of the week that makes TFE a unique experience. The lectures encompass the themes of identity, morality, and encountering Jesus in the Eucharist. These lectures set the foundation for each day.

Participants engage with the Catholic faith through daily Mass, the Sacraments, reciting Morning and Evening Prayer together, and reflecting on their experiences through conversations with their peers. Mentors accompany them during personal prayer and study in the evening as they discern how the Spirit is moving within them and develop their prayer lives.

Each day we serve our community with a specific emphasis on the poor and marginalized. We are thankful for the community partnerships, such as the local St. Vincent de Paul Campus. Participants perform service while also witnessing the dignity of each human person by encountering those they serve in a special way.

We like to have a little bit of fun! Our college team enjoys organizing experiences like our TFE Olympics and FranU simulation hospital escape rooms, among other things.

Each afternoon is catered to different experiences related to the development of one's vocation and prayer life. Participants hear from guest speakers from our community and also watch a documentary of Franciscan friars living their call to a radical life, all the while being encouraged to encounter Christ in a true and real way. They also visit FranU to learn more about our university!

"Ultimately, we hope that each person who attends TFE leaves with confidence in knowing that they are loved and created for a purpose. We have seen this happen first-hand. We help them understand the vitality of holy relationships in their lives, and they leave TFE with a community that is forged in virtue. It has been absolutely inspirational!"

**Tyler Trahan | Director**  
The Franciscan Experience @ FranU





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## HUNTER DOIRON

Class of 2017

TFE Summer College Team  
2019/2021

“During high school, there was a pivotal moment in my faith journey where I felt an inward desire to discern how to better express and live out my passion for theology. Fortunately, God led me to TFE where I was able to learn about and better understand how to follow my particular vocation to holiness through powerful prayer experiences, rich theology lessons, and moving service opportunities. I have also been blessed to remain a part of the TFE community for years afterward through participation on the college team. Being on the college team helped guide my own spiritual journey while as a student at FranU by allowing my passion for theology to be shared with others throughout my community. It was such a blessing to give back to something that made such a difference in my life.”

# COMMUNITY ENDORSEMENTS

We are extremely thankful for our community partners who express their support and belief in the mission of TFE Summer!



**Dina Dow | Director**

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis  
Diocese of Baton Rouge



“The Franciscan Experience engages young people through a profound encounter with Jesus Christ. Directed by unsurpassable leadership, participants deepen their relationship with God, become more confident in their faith and bear abundant fruits as joyful missionary disciples capable of bringing the light of Christ into the world.”

“It’s hard to think of a better place for our young men and women to discern their vocations than TFE. Through this initiative, our young people learn to hear the voice of the Lord in the Sacred Scriptures, the Blessed Sacrament and in the Poorest of the Poor. Jesus Christ is always inviting us with these words: “Come follow Me,” and TFE can open our ears to hear Him.”



**Fr. Joshua Johnson**

Director of Vocations  
Diocese of Baton Rouge





## PROGRAM GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Sharing the mission of FranU, TFE Summer aims to cultivate followers of Jesus who will become servant leaders who minister to the common good and grow as compassionate, faith-filled human beings. With your gift, you will support the following areas:

### PARTICIPANT SCHOLARSHIPS

Supports participants' desires to grow closer to their vocations by assisting those who may not have the resources to cover fees associated with the program.

### ANNUAL PROGRAMMING

Supports annual expenditures, including program supplies, stipends for college team and adult staff, marketing and promotions, etc.

### PROGRAM ENDOWMENT

Provides necessary sustainability of the summer institute for years to come that will advance our outreach and offer communal support opportunities for ministry and vocational discernment.



\*This program is made possible through the generosity of donors, like you, and a grant awarded through the Lilly Endowment Inc.

# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Visit **franu.edu/giving** and select  
The Franciscan Experience as  
the designation.

Contact the  
Office of Institutional Advancement

(225) 490-1605  
advancement@franu.edu

*"Blessed by the Lord are you who do these things and may the Lord be with you forever. Amen."*

St. Francis of Assisi  
Conclusion of "A Letter to the Entire Order"