***Cura***

**2021-2022 Leadership Application**

**Thank you for your interest in Cura and for your thoughtful consideration of this experience.**

**Please read the following information before completing your application to ensure a full understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of a Cura leader.**

“We have all known the long loneliness

and we have learned that the only solution is love,

and that love comes with community.”

-Dorothy Day

Cura faith-sharing groups get their name from the Jesuit value *cura personalis*. While this is commonly understood as meaning “care for the whole person,” we in Campus Ministry like to interpret this value as **care for the individual, AS an individual**- with all the experiences, identities, and complications that come along with being human. During this time of increased isolation, we hope to provide an avenue of connection, so that we can provide for each other the kind of love and care that can *only* come from being in community.

Cura groups gather virtually each week to reflect and pray together, discussing topics that are relevant to your lives as students. Groups include 5-10 participants and are led by 1-2 student leaders. This year, we will be introducing affinity spaces for students with shared identities to come process through their experiences together.

**Vision Statement**

Cura is a network of student-led small groups at Loyola that meet weekly to share questions, experiences, insights, and commitments in an atmosphere of prayer.

Cura groups are intentional communities that meet for the unique purpose of sharing faith and spirituality in light of the many aspects of the college student experience.

Cura is rooted in the Jesuit model of Christian Life Communities (CLC) and thus is distinctly Ignatian in its striving toward the Jesuit ideal of “finding God in all things;” members aim to identify God’s presence and action in their everyday lives at Loyola.

Cura welcomes all students, regardless of how certain or uncertain one might be about his or her faith at this particular time.

Cura invites each member to consider growing deeper in his or her unique faith by building meaningful relationships with other students.

**Group Components**

*While each Cura group will look unique in many ways, certain aspects of Cura are true for all groups. These include:*

* **All groups will incorporate prayer into each meeting.** Shared prayer is an essential component of Cura, and therefore, should be present within all groups. Groups may use traditional or original written prayers, spontaneous verbal prayers, music, art, silence, or other prayerful mediums depending on the interests and preferences of group members. Groups are encouraged to rotate prayer leaders in order to empower all members to express their unique spiritualities.
* **Each group will commit to a specific and relevant theme of their choosing for the semester.** General themes might range from relationships to Scripture, social justice to transitions, for example. While weekly conversation topics and activities will vary and should leave space for the Spirit’s guidance, the theme will provide a common thread that should weave through the semester’s conversation topics.

The basic purpose of Cura is faith-sharing; therefore, leaders are responsible for creating an appropriate and welcoming space for that type of conversation regardless of the chosen theme. How that faith sharing comes about in each particular group is up to the leader pairs to develop with the theme they select for their group. Leaders will be responsible for choosing their theme before groups begin in late September.

* **All group leaders will be expected to develop a structure and content for their meetings.** Leaders may choose to use published materials provided by Campus Ministry or create their own with guidance from Cura staff. Again, while each group’s specific structure and content will vary based on choice, they will all support the vision of Cura by including prayer, faith-based conversation, and action.

**Leader Qualifications**

*Cura leaders serve as group facilitators, role models, and ambassadors for Campus Ministry.*

*To serve successfully in those roles, Cura leaders must be:*

* aware and supportive of the vision of Cura;
* attentive to and engaged in their own spiritual journeys;
* able to collaborate in leadership with another student and meet on a regular basis to plan group meetings
* capable of creating a welcoming space for students with various backgrounds and interests;
* open to leading peers in discussions of faith and spirituality;
* respectful of the various spiritual journeys of their group members and peer leaders;
* comfortable leading prayer and conversation with their group members and peer leaders;
* interested in offering time and energy to build new relationships with group members and peer leaders during and outside of Cura meetings;
* ready to commit to the Cura program and their group members throughout the ’21-‘22 year

**Leader Expectations**

*All Cura leaders will be available to:*

* Participate in the Cura Leader Training
* Participate in monthly Cura leader meetings and prioritize these meetings over other activities
* Participate in and help coordinate Cura events once per semester
* Maintain weekly group meetings and actively retain members with regular contact and encouragement throughout the year
* Assist Cura staff in promoting Cura campus-wide and recruiting participants at the start of each semester

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**2021-2022 Leadership Application**

**Name: Year:**

**Email: Phone:**

**Birthday:**

**Have you participated in Cura in the past?**

**\_\_\_Yes, I was a member.**

**When? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Who were your leaders? ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_ Yes, I was a leader.**

**When?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_ No, I have not participated in Cura yet.**

**Please list the activities you have been involved with this year (2021-2022):**

**Please list the activities you plan to be involved with next year (2021-2022):**

**Are you going abroad in 2021-2022? \_\_\_\_Fall \_\_\_\_\_Spring \_\_\_\_Neither**

**Are you interested in leading a group with a particular demographic or interest? (e.g., first-years, seniors, men/women, scripture, social justice, other?)**

**YES (please explain) NO preference**

**Essays (next page)**

**Please respond to the following short essays with approx. 3-5 sentences per question**

1. Please explain your interest in serving as a Cura leader.
2. What does “faith-sharing” mean to you? What are important components of a faith-sharing group?
3. What are some characteristics of Cura that distinguish it from other clubs/student groups on campus?
4. How would you ensure that all are welcome in your group while maintaining the specific faith-based vision of Cura?
5. How would you describe your prayer life? How does it feel to imagine initiating and facilitating discussions about faith and spirituality with your peers? How comfortable are you participating in group prayer as well as leading a group in prayer?
6. How might you build and maintain relationships with your group members?
7. Which of your strengths will help make you an effective Cura leader? What strengths in a co-leader would complement your limitations and help create an effective team?
8. What might prevent you from fulfilling the expectations of a Cura leader from September through May?