Socially Responsible Personalism
Collaborative Pedagogies for Vincentian Social Engagement of the DePaul-Adamson Program for Urban Poverty Reduction

Dr. Marco Tavanti with students Liezl Alcantara, James Riturban and Lola Campos
Presented at the 14th Teaching and Learning Conference
DePaul University April 17, 2009

Tavanti 2009
The Manila Program of the School of Public Service focuses on training professional adults in competent applied research for participatory poverty reduction assessment techniques. Through the collaboration between DePaul University and Adamson University (two Vincentian Institutions) with the Vincentian Center for Social Responsibility, participants get a unique personal and professional exposure to the field of urban poverty reduction and collaborative research with community-based organizations in the Metro Manila area.

The profile of Manila reflects the challenges and opportunities of Chicago, another global city linked by the centennial celebrations of their common urban planner Daniel H. Burnham. The program is an effective way to engage in dialogue and collaborations professionals from Chicago and faculty and community leaders in Manila concerned to the alleviation of extreme urban poverty conditions and socially responsible civic engagement.

The shared mission of these two institutions could be summarized in the meaning of “the Congregation for the Missions (CMs)” here interpreted as a (global) Community of people gathered for the sake of the mission (Fr. Ed. Udovic)
The program centers around the experience of walking and accompanying the selected communities of Southville, Cabuyao, a community of displaced urban settlers originally living along the North-South railroad of Metro Manila. DePaul students collaborate in the ongoing service and commitment of Adamson University Vincentian Volunteers under the coordination of the Vincentian Center for Social Responsibility (VCSR).

Their work is centered around the notion of Academic social responsibility (ASR). Their projects focus on Vincentian Social Entrepreneurship. Their leadership is inspired by committed Vincentian priests like Fr. Nonong Afiliano Fajardo.
How does this program relate to DePaul Vision Twenty12 Goal 2 for developing socially responsible leaders?

The program reflects four dimensions and a model for developing (Vincentian) socially responsible leaders developed by Dr. Marco Tavanti during his leadership studies and international experiential program for socially responsible leaders.
The pedagogy (andragogy) of the School of Public Service – Study Abroad Program (SPS-SAP) in Manila in collaboration between DePaul-Adamson and displaced communities of informal settlers in Metro Manila.
A Participatory Mandate. The three most important things in participatory evaluation and research are: PEOPLE, PEOPLE, PEOPLE. In the program the collaboration comes in mixed teams of:

1) Adamson faculty
2) DePaul graduate students
3) Community leaders
The fundamental notions behind these teaching and learning international programs
What are we here for?
How can we have an impact beyond our own visit?
What is that best help the local constituencies?
SUSTAINABILITY + REPLICABILITY
Focus on appreciative inquiry in research and community / organizational leadership development
Appreciating People’s stories...
Liezl and James
Students develop these skills and demonstrate their social responsible leadership through their ongoing commitment to projects like the Pilipinas Muna, launch at DePaul as a social entrepreneurship competition. Students learn outside the classroom.
The impact and connections are not just personal... they are also cultural and historical like the Philippines-Mexican colonial connections during the Spanish-Mexican colonization of the Philippines and the Manila-Acapulco trading route.
The Burnham plan of Manila: Inclusive or exclusive urban planning?
The city from above or from below?
Within informally or outside formally?
The Burnham meets Vincent Conferences (Manila and Chicago)
The Urban Poverty Competitions
The blog reflections and website resources
www.bigplanslesspoverty.org