

A Letter to Future Loretto Justice Fellows

By Sofia Quinones Segovia 2024-25

The Loretto Justice Fellowship has been more than just a service year, it's been a grounding and transformative chapter in my life. Rooted in the Loretto Community's values of justice, peace and simplicity, the program invites you to live and work with deep intention. If you're looking for a year that blends personal growth, meaningful work, and a strong sense of community, this program offers all of that and more.

What stood out to me most:

- **A deep commitment to justice and peace**
Whether I was working directly with marginalized communities or reflecting with Fellows and mentors, I always felt surrounded by people who care deeply about challenging injustice and showing up with compassion.
- **An authentic, supportive community**
The Loretto Community is intergenerational, wise and deeply welcoming. I found not just colleagues, but friends, mentors and people who genuinely wanted to share space and listen. That sense of belonging was powerful.
- **Growth that goes beyond professional skills**
I didn't just learn how to do better advocacy or navigate nonprofit systems, I was invited to reflect, to ask hard questions and to sit with complexity. Even though I'm not religious, I found space for reflection and meaning-making that helped me connect my values to my work in a deeper way.
- **Diverse placements that align with your passions**
One of the strengths of this program is that your placement will really match your interests; whether that's education, immigration justice, community work, social services, or other areas. I was able to see my impact while staying connected to what I care most about.

Things to keep in mind:

- **The work is deeply emotional**
Being in close relationships with communities who experience systemic injustice is powerful—but also heavy at times. The Fellowship doesn't shy away from this, and you'll have support, but self-awareness and care are essential.
- **The program is rooted in Catholic social teaching**
While extremely inclusive, the program draws from a faith-based framework. For me, this added richness, even as someone not traditionally religious—but it's something to consider based on your own comfort.

Final thoughts:

If you're considering the Loretto Fellowship, know that you're stepping into something truly special. It's not always easy, but it's meaningful in a way few things are. For me, it was a year of showing up for others, for justice and for myself.