Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

Hello! And thanks for picking up this application packet for the 2016 Newman Center Alternative Spring Break Mission Trip! This trip is the product of a lot of prayer, a lot of dreams, and a whole lot of action on the part of the Holy Spirit. Although I won’t be joining you this year, I can’t tell you how excited I am to offer you this adventure into Appalachia, for you to get to know its people more, to join in community with an exceptional group again, and to live in radical simplicity and sustainability for a week. When I was in college, mission trips were some of the most formative and incredible experiences I had, and I can’t wait to see how you experience the life-changing rollercoaster ride that is mission work.

I know that this packet can look sort of intimidating, but it’s really not that bad! It’s just a collection of information to help both you and your Team Leaders on the road to Appalachia. Here’s what you’ve got, and here’s what you need to do with it:

* **The Right Side of the Folder** is your information side, telling you about the Bethlehem Farm, its mission and values, and what a week there normally looks like. I’d suggest reading this first so you know what you’re getting into!
* **The Left Side of the Folder** is your application. We use the term “application” only because there really isn’t a better term. This “application” process isn’t designed to weed out undesirables, but to help *both you and the Team Leaders* discern whether this trip is a good fit for you. Mission work can be uncomfortable, and it’s in everyone’s best interest to make sure that we’re all physically, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically prepared for it.
* **When you’re done,** just drop the filled out application (print it out first if you’ve downloaded it from our website) at the Newman Center Office (there’s a mailbox on the door if I’m not there) or give it to me when you see me on campus, at Mass, or at any Newman Center gathering.
* **The Team Leaders will be in contact** within a few days of receiving your application to arrange for an informal interview. This is just so that everyone can get to know each other and ask any questions that we each have!

Got it? Good! Here are a few other things to keep in mind before you get started:

* The application deadline is **December 31st**. The Team will be announced on **January 24th.**
* Make sure that you **put the training days on your calendar** (they’re listed on the page that you have to initial a bunch). *You. Need. To. Be. There.*
* **Not Catholic? No problem!** This trip is open to students and young adults of all faiths and in all stages of their faith journey.

If you have any questions at all, don’t hesitate to ask! My email is director@newmancenterkeene.com, and the Office phone number is 357.1444.

In Christ,

Cindy Cheshire, Newman Director and Campus Minister