

Report from the DioCal Interns
Submitted by Tom Poynor, Program Director

DioCal Interns concluded its seventh year this past June. This program is a constituent member of the Episcopal Service Corps (ESC), a national program that provides a year of service learning opportunities for young adults. For the 2016-2017 year we had seven interns who hailed from as far away as Colombia and as close as Martinez. As in previous years the group began with a retreat to the Bishop's Ranch to bond and begin the challenging work of creating a rule of life that would govern them throughout the year. Our program is unique from many ESC programs in that it maintains that the service work is a recognition that we commit to not making the world worse but that the primary place of learning is in intentional Christian community. Thus, in addition to a rule of life, the group also undertakes a practice of daily communal prayer and other aspects reflective of the monastic tradition. Finally the group undertakes a weekly study program of theology and group spirituality.

This past year our interns worked with Episcopal Community Services, La Collectiva - a project of Dolores Street Community Services that provides fair labor security for Spanish speaking day laborers in the Mission District, Interfaith Power and Light, the St. Mary's Center – a senior center in West Oakland, and with the communications office of the Diocese of California.

In the current year we welcomed four new interns to new lodgings in Parsons Hall at CDSP. We hope this transition can help integrate the interns more fully into the life of the seminary to strengthen that partnership. This year's group began their retreat at St. Dorothy's before beginning work at St. Mary's Center, Interfaith Power and Light, Episcopal Community Services – Next Door Shelter, and La Collectiva.

In the seven years of this program we have seen our alumni continue on in related work including: two being hired by Episcopal Community Services, five taking on lay parish ministry, one sitting on the board of the New York Intern Program, and three more starting or continuing after school development programs. Additionally one received an MDiv from Harvard this past spring, another matriculated at CDSP this fall, another began a Master's of Sacred Theology in Community organizing this fall, two have begun a formal discernment process with their diocese, one helped lead the Episcopal delegation to the Marrakech Climate Conference, and three organized and participated in the Charlottesville counter protest this summer.

Thus it can truly be said that through the DioCal Interns the Diocese of California is impacting and changing the world by studying and applying the transformative lived theology of Jesus Christ.