

## **DioCal Interns Report 2013**

In August the fourth class of DioCal Interns arrived. The program start date was advanced by about two weeks in order to insure a longer and more intentional orientation period with a strong emphasis on intentional community and forming a rule of life. The number of applicants for our program continues to rise with over 130 candidates seeking a place in the intern program. This year we accepted interns from one foreign country and five other states.

The past year proved successful in numerous areas including the growth in number of interns and the retention of all interns through the program year. We have added sites while maintaining our strong relationship with Episcopal Community Services. This year witnessed several innovations for the program including a second year intern functioning as an advisor in the skills and challenges of intentional community, growing to seven interns in two sites, entrepreneurial engagement with new ministry partner sites, and an increased didactic component involving social justice training with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and the creation of a curriculum stressing basics of Christian faith in conjunction with CDSP.

Interns this year are: Grace Aheron — from Virginia and a graduate of UVA, Sitraka Andriamanantenasa — from Madagascar and a graduate of Princeton, Nick Astraeus — from Oregon and a recent MA from Union Theological, Holly Aversano — from Georgia and a graduate of UGA, Charles Ledbetter — from California and most recently a graduate of Cambridge University, Ethan Lowery — from Virginia and a graduate of William and Mary, and Mariana Santiago — from Connecticut and a graduate of Smith College. Work sites this year are a community garden project, disaster preparedness and a justice program with microfinance, campus ministry, work with youth programs through DioHouse, St. James Oakland Food Bank, Seaman's Church Institute in the Port of Oakland, and Episcopal Community Services.

The program continues to hold up intentional Christian living after the pattern of early Anglican communities as a primary goal and intent of participants. Thus members engage in daily morning prayer, create a rule of life, agree to live on the stipend provided and to share some money in common with the community, and to participate in the life of one of our Eucharistic communities. Additionally the interns offer hospitality one night a week to the broader community and participate in the weekly dinner and Eucharist at University Chapel with the campus ministry community. Also, as mentioned above, the interns are taking part in a yearlong didactic process that covers the topics of Anglicanism, scripture, moral theology, mysticism, sexuality, ecology and theology, sacraments, church history, and vocation.

As the DioCal Intern program continues to grow we see more and more the increase in recognition amongst Episcopal Service Corps programs and within the diocese it will more and more become a live example of how the church might change and strengthen in the coming years.