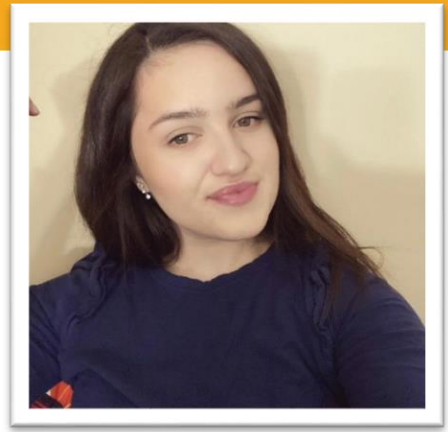


Seven Questions with an RCM Scholar

RCM Scholar Vanessa Garnica will graduate from Mount Mary University in May 2021 with a degree in International Studies with a Spanish Concentration and a Peacebuilding Certificate. During her time in the Scholarship Program, Vanessa has been mentored by Rotarian Jon Dehlinger. Best of luck to Vanessa as she prepares to graduate!



1. What's your favorite class this semester and why?

My favorite class this semester is Comparative Justice because it gives me the opportunity to discover criminal justice systems around the world. As an International Studies major, this class has helped me gain a better understanding of how these different countries operate while comparing them to the United States. Recently I found out how the country of Nicaragua has a criminal justice system that works towards "reeducating" the offender, helping them become better citizens & inspiring the youth.

2. What songs are on your playlist right now?

Right now the songs "Fields" by Giveon and "Brazil" by Declan McKenna have been on repeat. I enjoy music that is upbeat yet relaxed (if that makes sense) so I can listen to it when I am taking a break.

3. What are you most looking forward to when life returns to "normal"?

Seeing my friends and not wearing a mask! Even though wearing a mask is very important and I use it every time I am in public, it just does not feel right. I'd rather have conversations with people face to face because it feels more genuine and I like to see their expressions. I am happy to see more people getting vaccinated (I did!) and I hope "back to normal" comes soon.

4. Who is a hero of yours and why?

My father for sure, who came to this country with nothing and has worked hard to make sure his family has everything they need. He left everything behind, learned a new culture and language to better himself and provide for his family. My father has always made sure I was next to him when he changed a car tire, mowed the lawn, and fixed household problems so I could learn and not need to depend so much on others. He has made clear he wants me to grow up strong and be prepared to confront the real world.

5. What motivates you?

My family, mentors, counselors, advisors, peers, and friends have shown me so much support through my college process that it is thanks to them I am where I am today. The opportunity this Club has given me to afford school has also played a huge role. Seeing all the help I receive from amazing people that give their time to help me achieve my goals is why I continue to grow and want to be better.

6. Where do you want to visit someday?

I hope to visit Spain one day! Due to this pandemic, my plans to study abroad in Granada were shattered.

7. What's your favorite food?

Mexican food! My parents are literal chefs and make the best Mexican food. I also love pizza, I could eat it every day.



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