

# DLSU Service-Learning Experience: A Story of Hope in Communion

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Existential existence is far greater than functional existence with others. I will present the value of communion that shows the importance of service-learning experience in De La Salle University (DLSU) students. It will be specifically on students' SL experience with the persons deprived of liberty (PDL) at the Medium Security Camp, National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City, Philippines. Communion, as to be present with someone, will be characterized and elucidated through Gabriel Marcel's concept of communion. Hope, in the context of communion, involves giving a part of oneself to others, which one does by sharing time, presence and friendship. By some means, communion, shared through SL, offers PDL strength to continually live or rekindle life meaningfully. Communion guarantees SL in its delivery of hope to be utilized by PDL along with their individual battle of overcoming the temptations of desolation. This SL experience likewise creatively develops the student who bridges the gap between oneself and others when one makes oneself available to others. SL connects the students to others, recognizing the others' subjectivity while expressing their own. This paper will offer a fresh perspective on the importance of SL through the use of these unique perspectives on communion. The research method to be used is an integration of the philosophical reflections with the relevant personal reflection of students.

**Keywords:** Service-Learning; Communion; Hope; Gabriel Marcel; DLSU