

Seeing the Gifts . . .



For Gabbi Montavon, sophomore theology and religious education student at Xavier University, helping with children's liturgy at St. Leo's is "an amazing opportunity."

In fact she's convinced that in later life when she looks back on her college years this experience will stand out.

She's been strongly influenced by her own youth minister and by the work of Father Greg Boyle, SJ who wrote *Tattoos on the Heart*, the story of his ministry with gang members through Homeboy Industries. "He looks at everyone and sees peoples' gifts, not their history," Gabbi says. Being at St. Leo's gives her an opportunity to see the richness of the diverse parishioners who faith and courage have helped them seek new lives fleeing violence and genocide.

The youngest of three children and a parishioner of St. Charles in Dayton, she is involved in the Center for Faith and Justice at Xavier, is part of weekly faith sharing groups, and takes part in service projects and retreats. A recent retreat on immigration reinforced her belief that many people aren't treated equally and we all have to work together for justice for everyone.

When she graduates, Gabbi hopes to work in prison ministry or as a youth minister. For now, St. Leo's is grateful that she is sharing her gifts with us.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate