The Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Scholarship is a service and leadership program designed to challenge students to become leaders on campus and in the community. Arrupe Scholars are taught the skills to facilitate reflection, engage in advocacy work, lead students on service immersion trips, and coordinate local service projects.

Arrupe Scholars complete a minimum of 66 hours of service per school year, primarily at one site in the Wheeling area. Students engage in regular reflection regarding their service work in the community and participate in a week-long service immersion week at the end of the year.

As “men and women for others,” Arrupe Scholars are asked to be leaders in service and academics, and ambassadors in solidarity and Ignatian spirituality on campus and in the community.

Arrupe Scholars cap off each year with an immersion trip, which is unique to its own geographical location, population demographics, and community dimensions. Arrupe Scholars are encouraged to continually develop and challenge themselves in the service world. Immersions allow students to recognize the difficulties of other environments, many of which parallel the same issues that we see in Wheeling. Students bring back the skills and understanding they received on the immersion to better serve the Wheeling, WV area.

The First Year Immersion takes place in May and focuses on the greater Wheeling area. The students will work on a variety of projects that can include Laughlin Memorial Chapel, the East Wheeling Community Gardens, and other projects.

The Junior Class will head to a major American city in May, for an urban service experience. Students will understand opportunities and challenges associated with life in a city environment.

Sophomores will travel to the coalfields region of Southern West Virginia in May to catch a glimpse of how life is for many West Virginia residents. Students will engage the community by assisting nonprofits that serve the area area.

Seniors travel in January to El Salvador to focus on Archbishop Romero’s commitment to the people of El Salvador. Students will not just witness firsthand the daily struggle faced by many local people but work in solidarity with those making a difference in Central America.

“The Arrupe Program was truly one of the greatest experiences of my time at WJU.”

-Danny Forrester ’12
As a scholar, doctor, and priest, Father Pedro Arrupe was a champion for service to others and justice for all. Like St. Ignatius of Loyola, Fr. Arrupe was a native of the rugged Basque country of Northern Spain, where he was born on November 14, 1907. Originally, Fr. Arrupe was preparing for a career in medicine when he decided to become a Jesuit priest. In 1927, he interrupted his medical studies at the University of Madrid to join the Society of Jesus (commonly known as “Jesuits”). He later resumed his doctoral studies in the United States, where he was ordained in 1936.

In 1938, Fr. Arrupe went to Japan, serving as a missionary for the next 27 years. As the director for a group of Jesuit novices, he was living in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. As a physician of both body and soul, he led the first rescue party to enter the devastation, building a makeshift hospital, and utilizing his medical skills to serve the wounded and the dying. To him, this was “a permanent experience outside of history, engraved on my memory.” Nonetheless his words and deeds afterwards were full of Christian optionism, firmly rooted in the life-affirming presence of the Risen Lord. He later was appointed as the first Jesuit provincial superior in Japan.

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, elected Superior General of the Society of Jesus in 1965, is frequently referred to as the second founder of the Society of Jesus because of the charismatic leadership he provided for the order and for other religious communities in the challenging years of Church renewal after the Second Vatican Council. Due to failing health, Fr. Arrupe resigned his position in 1983. To the end of his life, he continued to inspire his fellow Jesuits and all he met with his courage and peaceful surrender to God’s ways. Fr. Arrupe passed away in Rome on February 5, 1991.

“Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for others... men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.”

-Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.