

Silk Valley: home of intergenerational dialogue and human dignity in Šiluva town

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ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA
COLLEGE

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“Silk Valley: A Home for Intergenerational Dialogue and Human Dignity” is a comprehensive community housing project based on the principles of Ignatian spirituality, human dignity, intergenerational dialogue, sustainability and community engagement



Mission and Vision

Mission: To create a community where every person — regardless of age — feels heard, valued, and supported in body, mind and spirit.

Vision: To establish a Lithuanian model of intergenerational living that unites spirituality, culture and care for human dignity.



Why this project matters

- Across Lithuania and in communities like Šiluva, we're seeing concerning patterns that affect quality of life for both young and old
- Older adults increasingly face social isolation, while young people search for opportunities to apply their skills in meaningful ways. Small towns often lack innovative models that bring generations together
- We believe there's a better way forward—one that creates connection through purposeful collaboration



Project idea in brief

[1] Community living 10 seniors will live together in purpose-designed community housing in Šiluva, creating a supportive environment where meaningful connections flourish naturally	[2] Student Engagement Students from 8 professional bachelor's degree programs at St. Ignatius of Loyola College will visit regularly, bringing professional skills, fresh perspectives to the community
[3] Knowledge Exchange Students share knowledge of professional hospitality, culinary arts and design principles while seniors share traditional wisdom, local history and time-honored crafts—creating true mutual learning	

Current status: concept development phase, with pilot implementation planned in 2028



Activities that build community

Culinary evenings

Seniors and students exchange recipes and cooking techniques, blending traditional Lithuanian dishes with modern culinary approaches

Creative workshops

Design students collaborate with residents on traditional crafts, textile arts and creative projects that honor heritage while exploring new forms

Open house weekends

Regular community events invite neighbors to join activities, share meals and strengthen bonds across the entire Šiluva community

Pastoral care and therapy

Emotional health support groups and guidance sessions are offered, forming a mutual learning experience where pastoral care students teach and residents share life wisdom



Hospitality Management in action

ILK Experiential Learning Model/Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm in Practice

- **Real practice, real impact.** ILK Hospitality Management students will transform their academic learning into lived experience, gaining skills that can't be taught in a classroom
- **Guest experience design.** Create welcoming environments and daily experiences that make residents feel valued and engaged
- **Event coordination.** Plan and execute workshops, cultural events and community gatherings that bring people together
- **Service planning.** Develop hospitality services tailored to community needs while fostering warm, inclusive atmospheres
- **Communication skills.** Master interpersonal dynamics through authentic relationships across generations and backgrounds



Benefits for everyone involved

For residents	For students	Community & Šiluva town
Active, engaged lives	Hands-on professional experience	Access to engaging events and workshops
Opportunities to learn new skills	Build practical skills in hospitality, event planning and design	Model for intergenerational support
Experience dignity and support	Real-world portfolio projects	Recognition as an innovative hub for community-building
Share wisdom and traditions	Deepened social awareness	Inspiration for similar projects nationwide
Experience dignity and support	Explore vocation and professional calling	Strengthened local connections

Thank you!



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