

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

As Catholics, service is an important part of the life of the church. Service is an integral part of living as a disciple of Jesus and we are expected to live our lives of faith in full and active participation. Confirmation candidates are expected to incorporate Works of Mercy into a service project as a part of their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In an effort to experience service as an act of love in an imitation of Christ, teens will focus on service as ministry rather than an accounting of hours. They will be asked to reflect upon their service activity and present an account of it to be shared as an example to the other teens.

Questions have continually arisen as to what counts and what doesn't; and we have come to the realization that it is easy to fall into the mindset of just completing hours without any thought as to why we are serving or how our service affects others--these are the reasons we have changed how we look at service.

Service will be categorized into different ministries and teens will pick 'events' in which to serve. Teens will present a synthesis of their experience once they complete one service project. **A total of 10 'events' = ONE service project.** A teen may choose one ministry to complete all 10 events or a variety of ministry events (encouraged) to experience different ways of serving.

Ministries

Liturgical Ministry - This ministry is for teens that participate in altar serving, hospitality and lecturing. Teens may consider each Mass as one event.

St. Elizabeth Ministry - This ministry is for teens who choose to visit nursing homes or hospitals. Teens may consider each visit as one event.

Matthew 25 Ministry - This is for teens who participate in activities where we tend to the corporal needs of others. This includes our St Vincent de Paul ministry, as well as other ministries such as sandwich making for the homeless, blanket collection, ministry to clean up nearby cemeteries, etc. The activities of this ministry vary in occurrence, so each day that a teen serves is considered one event. If the service day includes 4 or more hours, that will be considered two events.

St. Theresa Ministry - Often there are activities within the course of the year that are available through our parish; these activities include our Parish Picnic, branch removal and beautification of our grounds, babysitting nights, etc. Teens will be able to participate in these activities throughout the year. Each activity will be considered one event.

Family Service - I am aware that there are a number of families that complete service together. It is extremely important that families instill the necessity of service so this is honored and affirmed. It is understood that the activities of this ministry vary in the activity and occurrence, so I ask for an email of the details of the service. (Ideally it will meet the requirement of relating to a Work of Mercy, but all activities will be considered.) Each day that a teen serves is considered one event. If the service day includes 4 or more hours, that will be considered two events.

“OTHER” Service - If there is another type of service that a teen wishes to participate in, not listed here, please email the details of the service and how it meets the requirement of being a Work of Mercy and it will be considered.

Possibility – TBD organize a group trip Down Home Ranch Ministry - trip = 2 events

Possibility – TBD organize a group trip to Community First - trip = 2 events

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

The following reflection questions must be answered for each ministry. Complete one set of reflection questions per ministry, not ‘event’ (Ex: St. Elizabeth Ministry - if you visit a nursing home 3 different times, you would complete these questions once, reflecting on the summary of ALL 3 visits/events). Repeat answering the set of questions until a full service project is completed. **Email the completed service project to James-gonzales@st-theresa.org.**

- In which ministry did you participate and how many total events did you complete? (Ex: Food Pantry – 4)
- Where was each event located? (Ex: St. Louis Food Pantry)
- Why did you choose this ministry?
- What tasks or activities did you do for the ministry?
- What stood out to you during your time serving (person, idea, encounter, conversation, etc.)?
- How did your service benefit others or make other people’s lives more positive?
- Which work(s) of mercy were offered in your service?
- Describe how you encountered Christ / feel his presence?