



# Community Service Guidelines for Confirmation Candidates



*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord, rather than for men. Knowing that from the Lord, you will receive the reward to the inheritance."*

~ Colossians 3:23-24

Being a Christian, a Catholic, and a disciple of Christ calls us to live our lives according to the example and instructions Jesus himself gave us. This is our mission as a Church, and it's a BIG responsibility! One of the most important lessons Jesus taught us was that we must be willing to be a servant to all people in His name.

*This means that we must actually DO something to be a disciple of Christ!*

By doing parish and community service, we demonstrate a willingness to show Christian responsibility to our mission. Therefore, we want all Candidates to have three “experiences of service” — parish, community service individually, and community service as a family unit (ever mindful that parents are called to lead by example). An “experience of service” might be helping at a soup kitchen or a nursing home one time. Blessing the student with three distinct and different service experiences, can then encourage and inspire them to continue finding ways to actively do Jesus’ work through parish and community service long after they are confirmed.

**Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most importantly, on the example of Christ, who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:**

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how the service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and throughout your entire life!

The Confirmation process seeks to guide candidates in discovering that discipleship to Jesus Christ is service. *Per diocesan policy*, service is a requirement for Confirmation. Our expectation is that candidates will perform service equal to one day per year for Jesus — 24 hours per sacramental preparation year is the goal, with at least half of those hours being parish-based. Ideally, the breakdown of service would be as follows:

- 12 hours of parish service – service to the parish community of St. Louis.
- 6 hours of outside community service – service to the community outside the parish.
- 6 hours of community service as a family.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

~ Proverbs 22:6

Coming face to face with human need can be a truly transformational experience opening an entirely new point of view of the world from a Christian perspective!

Service hours should be recorded (record sheet available on our website) and turned in at the end of each catechetical year, along with a Reflection Essay (written on a separate sheet of paper).

The reflection essay should be written in complete paragraphs. Instructions available on our website.

## **What counts?**

Below are listed suggestions of ways in which you can serve others selflessly (no remuneration):

- Participate in Mass—Altar Server, Lector, Greeter, or Gift Bearer
- Volunteer at Saint's Place
- Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood or school.
- Chapel, after Mass, straighten books, seats and kneelers.
- Organize/deliver proceeds from a parish food or supplies drive.
- Help a handicapped person or support the family of a handicapped child by playing with or caring for the child.
- Participate in a walk-a-thon to support your favorite charity.
- Help a teacher before or after school.
- Visit with and help to take care of someone who is sick.
- Care for lawns, rake leaves or clear the snow for elderly or sick neighbors.
- Visit the elderly—in senior citizen center/residences or homes.
- Perform service for senior citizens or shut-ins in your neighborhood by shopping, gardening or housekeeping.
- Volunteer in a homeless shelter or food pantry
- Contribute your services to the Parish.
- Others—must be approved by the Religious Education Office as a suitable Apostolic Service.

## **What doesn't count?**

Cleaning your house, mowing your lawn, mowing someone's lawn for pay, raking your leaves, raking leaves for someone for pay, babysitting your siblings, babysitting for pay, anything you get paid to do, chores for you family, etc.

**Questions?** Contact the Youth Ministry Office at 585-586-5675 or [pstlouisym@dor.org](mailto:pstlouisym@dor.org).