

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE

Christian service is based on **the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy** and, most of all, the example of Jesus, who came to serve.

Consider the following points when deciding how you will be of service.

Service is not a job to be done. It isn't something you should expect payment or recognition. It is part of the Christian way of life. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.

Take time to reflect on how your service is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.

Continue your Christian service after your Confirmation and throughout your life.

Christian service is not always easy. But you should choose service that you are able to do well.

Read through the activities below. Check one or two that you think you could do. Remember to be realistic.

Discuss your service with your parents and catechist. You may come up with your own idea of how you wish to be of service.

- Offer your service to a neighbor who needs regular help with mowing

grass, shoveling snow, raking leaves, weeding, or planting.

- Volunteer for the Parish Nursery with others preparing for Confirmation.
- Offer to baby-sit for free for children of parents who are attending a weekend Mass or a parish meeting.
- Talk to a Faith Formation Staff Member about being a volunteer teen catechist for elementary or early childhood faith formation sessions.
- Do one act of service (not a regular expected chore) at home each day. Record it in a journal.
- Run an errand for a neighbor, volunteer at a hospital or nursing home, set up chairs and tables for parish meetings.
- Contact local agencies or care centers that train volunteers your age. See if they offer a service you could be part of. (See Agency Handout)
- Volunteer to contribute to a parish communications to engage other young people who are preparing for Confirmation to pray for special needs, take up a special collection or champion a special cause consistent with our Catholic Social Teachings. See Faith Formation Staff for guidance.
- Organize social activities for younger children, special needs individuals. See a Faith Formation Staff Member for guidance.
- Ask the Director of Faith Formation for names and address of parishioners who might like a visit, phone call or note card sent to them.

- Inquire about the activities of a parish or diocesan organization. Join in one of these projects
- Collect food or clothing for a local food pantry or clothing room.
- Volunteer to spend time organizing the food and clothing collected.
- Deliver A/V materials from the library to those who are homebound.
- Help a mission organization of your choice.
- Raise money through a car wash or other fund-raiser. With your contribution, include a letter to the organization explaining why you chose this group.

So what is expected of you in your Confirmation Journey?

During your 9th grade year do the following:

1 or more service experiences in OLIH Parish Community

Date Completed: _____

1 or more service experiences in the Greater Des Moines Area Community

Date Completed: _____

1 or more service experiences within your Family

Date Completed: _____

Complete the above experiences before your 10th grade year.

During your 10th grade year do the following:

1 or more service experiences in OLIH Parish Community

Date Completed: _____

1 or more service experiences in the Greater Des Moines Area Community

Date Completed: _____

10th Grade youth will also experience a Retreat and work with a Sponsor of their choosing in addition to the above Christian Service experiences.

Be sure to complete the 10th grade service experiences before August 15th of the year you are being Confirmed (fall of 11th grade year).