

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

Guidelines for Service

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, 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 your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfilling the needs of others, and building up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life.
- Read through the activities given below. You may wish to check one you could do, make up one of your own, or do one of the projects suggested in your religion class.

Service Activities

- Ask the parish priest for the name and address of a sick parishioner. Call, write, or visit this person regularly.
- Find out what your parish societies are doing. Join in one of their projects or in one of the following: help at a hunger center or bring food to the elderly, collect food and clothing for the poor or for Birthright, assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its works, or bring books and records from the library to the elderly.
- Join the choir or liturgy commission and serve; sing, play an instrument, distribute music books or straighten them in the pews after services, or offer to be a reader.
- Help a mission organization of your choice. Gather a group of your friends or neighbors. Organize a carnival, raffle, or dinner to raise money for the missions. Write a letter to the mission organization explaining your project, and enclose your contribution.
- Offer your service to the pastor or an elderly neighbor to do the following on a regular basis: mowing, shoveling snow, raking leaves, weeding, or planting.
- Form a baby-sitting club with other candidates. Offer to baby-sit free of charge for children of parents who are attending adult religious education programs or weekend Mass.
- Volunteer to assist the parish Director of Religious Education with weekly religion classes. You could pass out supplies, teach children prayers, or read scripture stories to children.

- Offer your services to a skills bank in your parish.
- Try to do one act of service at home each day. Record it in your journal.
- Use some of your free time or TV time to do these services: run an errand for a neighbor, volunteer at a hospital or nursing home, set up chairs and tables for parish meetings, or be a server at a Mass.
- Contact local agencies or care centers and find out if they accept and train volunteers. The Red Cross provides volunteer facilities.
- Volunteer to contribute to a "Helping Hands" bulletin board so that your class can pray for special needs. You could read the newspapers, find an article that expresses a need in the world, and post it. Or you could read articles on the missions, write a report on their needs, and post it.
- Organize recess activities for younger children or read stories to them at indoor recess time.

It is mandatory that each Confirmand perform at least 12 hours of community service.