

# SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

"The Son of Man has come not to be served but to serve...." (Mark 10:45)

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you have done to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Jesus gives us the example of a life of service. Confirmation candidates are asked to experience at least four different types of service during this year.

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy indicate things we can do to live the Christian life more fully.

## **The Corporal Acts of Mercy are:**

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To bury the dead
4. To visit the sick
5. To shelter the homeless
6. To visit the imprisoned
7. To clothe the naked

## **The Spiritual Acts of Mercy are:**

1. To warn the sinner
2. To forgive all injuries
3. To counsel the doubtful
4. To bear wrongs patiently
5. To teach the ignorant
6. To pray for the living and the dead
7. To comfort the sorrowful

Choose service to those outside your family. Service within the family is part of what is expected of family members. Choose service projects that you do not get paid for and that challenge you. Choose service experiences that meet a particular need for someone, like raking an elderly neighbor's leaves or shoveling their snow. Service experiences help us feel good about ourselves (love of self) and help us to show kindness and love to others (love of neighbor). Service experiences united with prayer (love of God) help us to live the new commandment more deeply. St. Vincent de Paul said: *"If we do not burn with love for others, they will die of the cold."* You are becoming an adult Christian in the Church during this Confirmation process.

Service experiences should be completed by the January 16 class. The service reflection and verification form detailing your experiences should be turned in at that meeting.