

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)

The life of Jesus is an example of a life of service to others. He is the example to us of how we must also live our life. Confirmation candidates are asked to experience at least four different types of service during this year. This process is part of growing in your faith, as well as becoming an adult Christian in the Church. The deeper you go in your faith, expectations of how you live in the world can be confusing. Looking to Jesus as your friend, guide, and mentor will always be the right next thing to do.

Confirmation candidates are required to participate in four different service projects. Please 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."*

Service experiences should be completed by January 10, 2024.

Four Confirmation Service Reflection and Verification Forms **(one form for each of your four experiences)** should be turned into your catechist in class on January 10, 2024.

Use this time as your training field or look at it as your apprenticeship in understanding how God is working in your life. Service to others is a beginning of putting God and others first. It is not all about you! 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