

# SERVICE TO OTHERS

**“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**  
-John 13:34-35-

“By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witness of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” – Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285

The **purpose of these service projects** is for the candidates to explore the many gifts and talents God has given them and the different ways they can use these gifts and talents to love and serve Christ, His Church, and His children. As confirmed Catholics, they will be called to a deeper level of responsibility in spreading Christ’s love and truth to His people. As they prepare to be confirmed, candidates should reflect upon the ways that Christ is calling them to take on this responsibility to be living witnesses of their faith. Christ shows us through His own life that true love for others takes the form of self-giving service.

## Service Requirements:

This year, the requirements for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year candidates are as follows:

- 1 service project for your parish.
  - 1 service project at home.
  - 2 projects serving the wider community, choosing from the Corporal Works of Mercy.
  - After each project, students must write a reflection on their experience (see Service to Others Reflection Form).
1. The students must complete a total of 4 service projects during their 1<sup>st</sup> year and 4 service projects during their 2<sup>nd</sup> year. There is no specific requirement on the number of hours.
    - Each year, the student should choose 1 project serving his/her family, 1 project volunteering at the parish, and 2 projects serving the wider community.
    - Each of the community projects should correspond with one of the Corporal Works of Mercy (see Mt 25:31-46).
      - Feed the Hungry
      - Shelter the Homeless
      - Clothe the Naked
      - Visit the Sick and Imprisoned
      - Bury the Dead
  2. Candidates must document their service projects on the Service to Others Reflection Form when each project is completed. These forms are to be filled out **by the student** and will be available each week at the Religious Formation classes and also on the parish website at [stcharlesomaha.org](http://stcharlesomaha.org) under the Religious Formation heading. The completed forms can be turned in to their catechist or the RF office. This year, we are also asking that parents review and sign these forms.
  3. Students should turn in each reflection form as soon as it is completed. **The first 2 projects and completed Service to Others Reflection Forms are due on or before December 14, 2011. The remaining 2 projects and reflection forms are due on or before March 21, 2012.**

# Service to Others Project Ideas

\*These are some suggestions for service projects that students may complete. They are merely meant to give you an idea. Use your creativity to discern how you can best use your gifts and talents to serve Christ this year!

## Family:

- Volunteer to make and clean up after dinner.
- Mow the lawn or shovel snow for your grandparents.
- Volunteer to do **extra** chores around the house.

## Parish:

- Sign up to be an altar server.
- Volunteer at Vacation Bible School.
- Volunteer at a parish event, such as a Fish Fry or the Parish Picnic.
- Volunteer to help with grounds keeping.

## Community:

- Feed the Hungry
  - Help cook or serve a meal at a homeless shelter/ family shelter/etc.
  - Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Shelter the Homeless
  - Volunteer at a homeless shelter
- Clothe the Naked
  - Help with a clothing drive, donating clothing to a shelter, etc.
  - Knit or crochet scarves/ make a fleece blanket for the homeless/poor
- Visiting the Sick and Imprisoned
  - Visit a nursing home
  - Volunteer at a hospital
- Burying the Dead
  - Volunteer to help clean a cemetery

## GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

- \* Family service projects should reflect work done beyond the usual chores and duties done at home.
- \* Service should not have any financial rewards.
- \* Service should be done with a willing heart and carried out in a generous spirit.

# Service to Others Reflection Form 2011-12

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year (1<sup>st</sup>/ 2<sup>nd</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

## **Project Description:**

In one paragraph, please describe the service project. Include the project title, the organization's name (if applicable), and a description of your role in the project.

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## **Project Category:**

In one or two paragraphs, explain which category this project falls under (family, parish, or community) and why the project fits this category. If the project is a community project, please explain which Corporal Work of Mercy you lived out while participating in the service opportunity and how you did so.

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## **Reflection**

**Please attach a typed or NEATLY hand-written reflection about your service experience. Write at least 2 paragraphs. Answer the following questions and include any additional thoughts you have. Be honest!**

- Why did you choose this project?
- What was your favorite part of the project? Why? What was the hardest part of the project? Why?
- Would you participate in this service project again? Why or why not?
- How did you give of yourself in this project? (How did you use your gifts and talents to serve others?)
- How did you act as a witness of Christ's love through this service project?
- What did you learn about yourself, your community, and God through your participation in this project?

Parent/ Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_