

## Confirmation Preparation

### Service Component

*"Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. This is the call of Jesus, the urging of his Spirit, the challenge of the prophets, and the living Tradition of the Church." (Renewing the Vision: A framework for Catholic Ministry, USCCB, 1997, p. 37)*

Encouraging participation in various service opportunities is an important part of helping to solidify the understanding that our faith calls us to service and justice as a way of life. We offer ourselves to others in thanksgiving for all that God and others have done for us. We offer our time, energy, and gifts to building the Kingdom of God.

There are many ways that you can become involved in service during your preparation time. Candidates should talk to their parents and sponsors about choosing ways to serve. While we will not require a specific number of hours, you should keep in mind that this is an important part of Christian living. Please complete a service log for each project you participate in.

**Student service hours are especially tricky during COVID.** While we don't want anyone to mingle outside of their bubble, we do want them to learn the importance of what it means to be of service to others. The expectation is that students will complete eight service projects over a two-year period. Some may have completed projects last year perhaps helping with the spring food drive or at last year's Christmas bazaar. Where ever your student is on the path to completing this portion of the preparation is okay. We will figure it out.

I would encourage, you to encourage them to tap into their passions. This could be a time for them to explore, experience, or understand more fully a topic. Some ideas are helping at home, planning and cooking a meal for the family (with limited parental help), designing and leading a family prayer service, writing letters to elected officials about climate change or other items in Congress, or helping fellow students online during class.

### Types of Service

**Family Life:** These are things that you do to help your family and can include a variety of actions. Consider everything that happens in your house- the responsibilities of cooking, cleaning, taking care of children and pets, finding time for relaxation/rest/fun, or creating a safe, happy, and trusting home. How can you share the responsibilities and burdens of family life? What are small and simple ways that you can contribute to the household, and, therefore, serve your family?

**Community Life:** These are things that you do to help create a better community. Part of serving a community is learning about the challenges or issues that the community faces. Once you have learned about some of the challenges or issues, you can serve your community by raising awareness/speaking out about an issue and by providing for the needs of those in the community.

## Ideas for service:

- At least once a week take on an extra household chore that you would not normally do.
- At least once a week, organize a dinner menu, shop, and cook dinner with your mom or dad.
- Regularly, help a sibling, friend, neighbor, or schoolmate with his/her homework.
- If your family does not recycle, set up and monitor a recycling system in your home. Encourage recycling practices.
- Serve as a family “energy watchdog” by shutting off lights, radios, and TVs when they are not in use.
- At least once a month, organize a family fun night to help your family relax after a busy week.
- Family History Project: Spend time talking to your relatives and record your family’s history. Gather pictures and stories and share what you have learned with your family.
- Volunteer with a parent to shovel the walkway of a senior.
- Volunteer to be a teacher’s aide during your free time.
- Find a social justice issue that you care about, create a project/presentation on that issue. What is the issue about? Who does it affect? What kind of change can be made?

Let Jim Potthast know what types of projects you are doing or are interested in doing! Contact Jim Potthast to plan and organize a service opportunity.

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