

LaSalle Catholic Confirmation Service Project

Service Rationale

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.” St. James 2:14-18

Service to others and the community is an essential part of the Christian’s life. The service project’s aim is to encourage our young Confirmandi to explore first-hand the different ways they are able to help others in the name of Christ. The project should not be seen as gaining hours as points towards a goal, but rather as an internship wherein a variety of service opportunities are explored as a beginning to a lifestyle of Christian service.

Service Requirements

1. Six hours and reflection paper must be completed before the Confirmation retreat on September 29th.
2. The hours need to be documented on the included form.
3. Choose at least two separate service activities, under separate supervisors. A variety of experiences is preferred.
4. Service to others must be offered freely and joyfully - even when we don’t initially feel excited about the activity. (The maturity to set aside our own inclinations in service to others is a prerequisite for the service program.)

Service Guidelines

1. The beneficiaries of the service cannot be family members. Service activities should expand our role in the community beyond our family.
2. There can be no monetary compensation for the service. Example: being an altar server at a funeral or wedding where a stipend is accepted cannot be used for service hours.
3. The beneficiaries of the service should be the parish community or *human persons* outside the parish. Example: caring for animals is nice, but our evangelical imperative is towards people.
4. At least one of the service activities should be in a project in which you directly serve another face-to-face. Example: while setting up chairs for an event or singing in the choir can be used for service hours, your project must also include something more direct, such as helping at the food pantry, visiting the nursing home, or volunteering at Totus Tuus.

Service Opportunities

Candidates are free to choose their own service activities, provided that the above requirements and guidelines are followed. Be sure there is a supervisor able to verify your presence. These are some examples:

- Altar Server: for service hours please especially remember to be prompt and to wear dress shoes. Not a server? Contact fcarlson@lasallecatholic.org to sign up.
- Sing in the Choir: contact Alex for details adittmer@lasallecatholic.org.
- Become a Reader at Mass: contact Julie jbrown@lasallecatholic.org. You must commit for the full Fall Schedule (September through November). We will be able to guarantee at least two hours for those who sign up before July.
- Totus Tuus Summer Program: see youth volunteer form and requirements online.
- Parish Summer Events: setup/cleanup for the Mitch McVicer concert, the Bazaar, Kermes, Ventas after Spanish Mass, etc.
- Visit-a-Vet Program: 10am on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Spend time with residents at Illinois Veterans Home in La Salle. Contact Susan to register at 815 224 4663 or at scully@illinois.gov.
- Illinois Valley Food Pantry: help with carry outs every Wednesday 3-6pm, must wear shoes, no flip flops.
- Hall Township Food Pantry in Spring Valley: contact hallfoodpantry@comcast.net.
- Liberty Village: assist with resident activities. Those under 14 need parents to participate as well (need background check consent). Contact Sabrina at activity@libertyvillageofperu.com.
- YMCA Activities: contact Mike Wallaert.
- Parish Grounds and Gardens: contact Sr. Norberta at srnoberta@lasallecatholic.org
- Participate in local Pro Life activities or assist the Crisis Pregnancy Centers.
- Care for the lawns of elderly or sick neighbors free of charge.
- Gather supplies or volunteer to help at one of the PADS shelters/stores.
- Create and deliver care packages to the homebound, missionaries, or military personnel.

Reflection Paper

Students are asked to prepare a 3-4 page paper (1" margins, Times New Roman, double spaced) reflecting on their service experiences. The reflection paper might consider these questions:

- What did I do? When did I do it? For whom? Why did I choose this work?
- How did I feel doing the work? What impact did it have on me?
- How did that work benefit others?
- How did you experience God in the work?
- Which of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy were involved in your service?
- How did your service connect to what Jesus asks of us in Matthew 25:31-46?
- How does charitable service work relate to being a Confirmed Catholic?