

## Service Projects

Service to others is essential for Christians. The call of Jesus to “love one another” means that we give of ourselves to better the lives of other people without counting the cost or asking, “What can this do for me?”

Christian people serve because our relationship with Jesus Christ makes it impossible not to. It is his love in our hearts that overflows into acts of service that we do for others. The charity we do for individual people or organizations are not simply a social service, but a witness that we believe and know that Jesus Christ is alive.

The types of service projects that can be done to prepare for Confirmation are varied. You can browse the list on this website, but you can certainly be creative and come up with something different. It is very important however that your service project includes the following:

**Working directly with people.** This means that we share our time and talents spending time with those who are less fortunate than us: those who are ill, elderly, homeless, the lonely or those otherwise burdened. By doing these works of mercy, we are taking the call of Jesus seriously to heal what is broken in the world.

**Taking time.** Your service hours should total to 15 and be spent in the same place but do not all have to be done in the same day, of course. Whether you spend 15 hours working on a Habitat for Humanity home, or 15 hours keeping an elderly person company, the time you spend will help you learn a lot and will give the person you serve more time to get to know Jesus who is working through you.

**Approval from teacher or catechist:** As you come up with ideas for your service time, run them by your teacher or catechist first. If he or she thinks the idea is good, you will write a proposal by April 20 explaining how your project will exemplify the qualities listed above.

**Summer:** If you are unable to complete your hours over the summer because of vacation, camp, or otherwise, you may do them at any time. Your reflection paper will be due September 20, so any time between now and then will be fine to complete your service.

**“Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.”**