

Visitation Religious Education

Service Activity Journal

8th Grade



"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should do for others." (John 13:15)

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Dear Disciples of Christ,

Jesus gave his whole life in loving service of others, especially the poor, the sick, the lost, and those forgotten by society. Day after day he brought the love and mercy of God to those considered unworthy by many people of the time, healing their broken bodies and forgiving their sin-sick souls.

In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus tells his disciples a parable about the sheep and the goats. He makes it clear that at the end of our lives we will be judged by how we have treated the poor and vulnerable, for Jesus is present in just such people in need:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Mt 25:35-40

So to be a true disciple of Jesus requires more than simply believing in him, attending mass, and praying. Following Jesus means doing what Jesus has called us to do: to reach out in loving service to those around us, especially the poor and forgotten.

As you fulfill your service hours this year, bear all of this in mind. Service is not a burdensome requirement imposed by a religious education program, but rather a calling from Christ to participate in the exciting adventure of his mission. May you be blessed by his love.

Matt Pozen --- Director of Parish Faith Formation

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Sheltering the homeless
4. Clothing the naked
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting the imprisoned
7. Burying the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counseling the doubtful
2. Instructing the ignorant
3. Admonishing sinners
4. Comforting the afflicted
5. Forgiving offenses
6. Bearing wrongs patiently
7. Praying for the living & dead

Service Activity Expectations

6th Grade = 4 service activities

7th Grade = 6 service activities

8th Grade = 8 service activities

The Diocesan policy regarding Confirmation preparation states that one of the components of preparation should be “involvement in service, reflecting Christ’s social mission”, which helps develop the candidate’s faith and personal growth. The list and requirements below were developed to be in line with the Diocesan policy. This is not to imply that other service activities are not worthy activities but it is a means to insure that the Confirmation candidate is involved in service that reflects Christ’s social mission and helps them grow and develop their faith.

Students should bear this in mind when creating their own service activities or signing up for those offered by others. The RE Office will email out any service opportunities that arise and meet the policy above.

The required number of activities must include a minimum of two activities from within the church and two from the larger community. An activity may not be used more than twice for the service requirement.

Categories of Service Hours

Category I. Service within the Church: the family of faith

A. The service of worship

- Attending a **weekday** mass.

B. The service of prayer

- Leading a family Rosary, attending Stations of the Cross.

- Spending an hour with Jesus in the Adoration Chapel.

C. The service of fellowship

- Helping with set up, take down or serving at a parish social function: Christmas bazaar, CRHP, Helping Hands, etc.

Category II. Service beyond the Church: the human family

F. The service of justice

- Participating in pro-life work: praying at a clinic, attending a march.

- Advocating on behalf of marginalized groups: writing to legislators.

G. The service of charity

- Helping the elderly in their homes, visiting them in nursing homes.

- Serving at a food pantry, homeless shelter, or soup kitchen.

- Raising money for a charitable cause.

Due Dates

6th and 7th Grades

Journals collected at the final monthly in-person RE session in **APRIL**.

8th Grade

Journals due at 8th Grade Sponsor Sessions in **MARCH**.

Instructions for Recording Service

1. Fill out the top portion of the back cover of this booklet.
2. For each service activity you do, fill out a page from this journal.
3. Have an adult witness from the event sign your record.
Service Activities will only be counted if there is an adult signature.
So remember to bring your book to each event or you can tear out a sheet from the book to bring to the event and then staple it back into the book.
4. Write a brief reflection (3-5 sentences) on your experience of the service.
What did you learn about doing service, other people, yourself, and God through the experience?
All service activities must have a written reflection to be counted.
Please write legibly, print if necessary.
5. Sign each page when you have completed it.

Sample

12/7/20

Date

Signature of Adult Witness

Service Hour Category

 X Church

_____ Community

Visitation Church

Person, Organization, or Charity Served

Loaded Giving Tree Presents into Trucks

Description of the Activity (what you actually did)

Reflection --- *Your thoughts about the experience.*

Student Signature _____

Examples of RE Service Activities

Church (Ongoing)

Altar Serve - Contact rectory at 630- 834-6700.

Children's Choir - Contact Barbara Masters at 630-834-8190.

Prayer Hour for Vocations – Every Monday 7 - 8 p.m. at the church.

**Parent should accompany student.

Rosary for the Unborn – Every Thurs. 7:00 – 8:0 p.m. at the Crypt

**Parent should accompany student.

Church (Yearly Sign-Up Events) -- There will be other sign up events also.

Totus Tuus / Vis Vacation Bible Camp: July

Help with activities for the younger children.

Pro-life Crosses Set up & Take down: October

Volunteer for either or both

St. Nick's Boutique: November

Sharing Tree & Boxes of Joy: November - December

Shopping for, buying, and wrapping gifts.

Sorting and loading packages.

1st Communion Retreat – Spring

Church or Community --- These may count in either category

Casserole Ministry: Students make a casserole for the needy.

For local families and homeless at Franciscan Outreach Soup Kitchen.

Recipes are given on the tin distribution weekends after mass and the casseroles are collected on a following scheduled weekend at mass.

Students find it rewarding to shop for the ingredients and make the casserole themselves with minimal supervision. See bulletin for schedule. If you miss tin distribution you have to wait until next one.

Grace Café --- Families will be needed for various shifts between the hours of 3:30 - 9 pm the day of the event.

CCW Christmas Caroling with the Family at Park Place --- Dec. (limited #)

C.R.E.W. (Catholics Ready Eager Willing) --- June

For incoming 7th & 8th Grade Only.

This event encompasses 4 community service activities and 1 church activity. Parent volunteering is required, must have taken Protecting God's Children workshop.

Community

Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network's 'Cue for a Cause BBQ.

Labor Day Weekend, shifts from 12-8 at the lot behind the K of C hall.

Phone: 630-782-6006, e-mail: walkin97@ewanet.org

Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center

Make a meal or cookies for the sick and their families.

<http://rmhccni.org/volunteer-loyola/>

Clothing Center at First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst

232 S York St. --- Phone: 630-834-2440.

Please contact the office to volunteer. You do not have to be a member of the church.

The Saturday Meals Program at First Congregational Church of La Grange
South La Grange Road at Cossitt.

Serving food, cooking, washing dishes, and talking with our guests —

Contact the volunteer coordinator: volunteercoordinator@fcclg.org

Quinn Center Soup Kitchen 1845 S. 9th Ave, Maywood, IL

Phone: 708-343-6120

Student and parents volunteer Tuesdays, year round.

4:30 p.m. set up, 5-7 p.m. serve guests. (No need to call ahead)

Catholic Charities Day Break Center & Shepard's Table Soup Kitchen

Joliet: Contact Stephanie Ambrose at sambrose@cc-doj.org.

Phil's Friends - 1350 Lake St. STE I, Roselle, IL 60172

Phone: 224-653-8315 --- Email: info@philsfriends.org

<http://philsfriends.org/volunteer/>

Mission: Providing Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. Make Care Packages for cancer patients.

Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry 1083 S. York Road

To volunteer at the food pantry, contact Janet Cox:

<http://eyfp.org/how-to-volunteer/> or Phone: 630-782-1066

Parents must sign waiver on volunteer day during client shopping hours.

Parent & Child Volunteers must call or email to get on the schedule.

Client shopping hours: Monday 6:30-8:00 pm,

Thursday 1:00-4:00 pm and 6:30-8:00 pm, Saturday 9:30-12:30 p.m.

Restocking (Just show up): Tue: 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.,

Wed: 10:30 am -12:00 pm, Fri: 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.,

Sat: 12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m.

Northern Illinois Food Bank Truck Deliveries (Just show up)

2nd Tue of month 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,

4th Tue of month 9 a.m – 10:30 a.m

People's Resource Center, Westmont & Wheaton: 630- 682-5402

<http://peoplesrc.org/volunteer>

Student and parents volunteers

Feed My Starving Children --- <http://www.fmssc.org/volunteer>

Aurora, IL: 555 Exchange Court Aurora, IL 60504 Phone: 630-851-0404

Schaumburg, IL: 1072 National Parkway Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone: 847-519-9614

Note: Parking lot entrance located on Remington Road

Northern Illinois Food Bank 273 Dearborn Court, Geneva, IL 60134

Phone: 630.443.6910

<https://solvehungertoday.org/volunteeropportunities/>

Access Sports --- provides young athletes with disabilities in Elmhurst area access to team sport activities. Organize basketball, soccer, baseball, and track teams at various times of the year.

<http://www.elmhurstaccesssports.org/want-to-volunteer-.html>

Humanitarian Service Project --- 465 Randy Road Carol Stream, IL 60188

Contact Bridget Dooley at 630-221-8340 / hsp@humanitarianservice.org

at least 2 days in advance to make an appointment to volunteer.

<http://hsp.agency/getinvolved/volunteers.html>

Pull gifts for children and pack birthday boxes, also sort Party in a Bag kits and other donations as they arrive.

Sort/pack food boxes for seniors DuPage Senior Citizens Council's Fall Chore Days - the first three weekends in November.

To volunteer for Chore Days, call 630-620-0804 ext. 11.

Park Place Senior Center 1050 S. Euclid Avenue, Elmhurst

A parent may accompany up to-4 children to interact with the senior residents in the evening playing bingo, chess, checkers or doing crafts or you could make cards or cookies at home and deliver them to the seniors.

Contact Susan Dyer 630-936-4132 to find out days and times.

Lexington Square Senior Center 400 W. Butterfield Rd, Elmhurst

A parent may accompany up to-4 children to interact with the senior residents in the evening playing bingo, chess, checkers or doing crafts or you could make cards or cookies at home and deliver them to the seniors.

Contact Tammy Hemmingway 630-832-5959 or

tammy.hemmingway@lexingtonsquare.com to set up a day & time.

K of C Squires - youth organization of the Knights of Columbus

For young Catholic men between the ages of 10-17. Squires do many volunteer activities which would be accepted for Confirmation service.

For more info on joining this group go to: <http://www.elmhurstkofc.org>

Date

Signature of Adult Witness

Service Hour Category

_____ Church

_____ Community

Person, Organization, or Charity Served

Description of the Activity (what you actually did)

Reflection --- *Your thoughts about the experience.*

Student Signature _____

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Student Name

Student Signature

Date

RE Grade (6th, 7th, 8th)

RE Session Day, Time, Group (A,B,C,D,E)

Catechist's Name

Required Number of Service Activities

6th Grade = 4 activities

7th Grade = 6 activities

8th Grade = 8 activities

Due Dates

6th & 7th Grades --- Journals due at final in-person RE session in **APRIL**.

8th Grade --- Journals due at 8th Grade Sponsor Session in **MARCH**.

Final Report

Total Service Activities Completed

Y / N

Coordinator of Middle School RE Signature