

Service Projects

Why Service Projects?

We read in Sacred Scripture that faith, without works, is lifeless. We are called by Jesus to show our faith through action (or service) to others. As you prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asked to undertake a number of “service projects” which will not only help you recognize the needs of others, but, also, begin to respond to them. Keep in mind the many areas where you can choose to be of service:

Parish Service

You can assist in setting up for parish events or cleaning-up after they are finished. You can work on clean-up projects around the parish grounds. You might act as a hall monitor or classroom assistant for religious education classes. What about babysitting for younger children when their parents come to church for a meeting? Check the bulletin to find out what events are being held in our parish each week. Then find out who is in charge. A phone call to the Coordinator will be most welcome.

Family Service

You can offer lots of service in your own home. Doing chores, over and above your normal chores, is a service to family as well as God. Can you maintain and clean your room? What about making your bed or cleaning out a closet, or the closet of a brother or sister? What about maintaining your personal belongings better – your bike, sports equipment, school books? Personal service to the family could include helping with dinner detail, taking out garbage, doing errands, yard work or cleaning the basement. You can exercise or feed the family pet, compose and deliver a prayer of “grace before meals” for family dinners, make and hang holiday decorations, arrange for a family birthday celebration, write a letter to a relative you hardly see, straighten out or clean kitchen cabinets, help a brother or sister with homework, or spend some quality time with them. Surprise your parents by cleaning out the garage. Rake leaves or shovel snow. Whatever you do, however, make sure it is “over and above” what you usually do, and you are not getting paid to do it.

Community Service (Civic, school and world)

Service to the community includes shopping for an elderly shut-in, shoveling snow, cutting grass or raking leaves for shut-ins. Buy a newspaper or magazine for a neighbor and drop it off for a short visit. You might want to become a “new mother” aide, or “adopt” a foster grandparent. Consider taking care of the pets of elderly neighbors or relatives. Can you babysit someone for free? Tutor? Can you become a big brother/sister to someone in the neighborhood? At local nursing homes, you could visit some relatives, read to them, bring them a plant, play games with them, write letters for them, entertain or just listen. Can you bake something yourself for a bake sale that benefits a needy cause? Work on a car wash? Collect bottles to benefit the needy?

In addition to these suggestions, there will be several service projects offered by St. Francis during the school year. This information will be provided during class time.