



# Service as a way of life

Each Catholic is called to a lifetime of Christian service. Jesus' whole life was one of service, and we are called to serve in imitation of Him: to serve, not to be served; to love one another as He loves us-without reservation.

The goal of Confirmation service is to help you make important decisions about your future as a Catholic in service to others, specifically those "least among us". What kind of service have you done? What will you do as a teen and adult?

Your parents are a necessary part of this process. As the first models of service, they have fed the hungry (you), given drink to the thirsty (you), clothed the naked (you), cared for the sick (you). Service is a fact of everyday life! Your parents will help and support you as you discover your unique God-given gifts and choose ways to use them in service to others, as Jesus did.

A FAMILY SERVICE plan is the optimum pathway of service, as it provides opportunities for the entire family to serve, reflect and grow together. When you were Baptized, you were called to be of service. You have likely been performing service throughout your life, often within your extended family. Now, as you prepare for Confirmation, you are looking toward a lifetime of Catholic service and ministry. Considering the service you've done, does it reflect your talents and desires?

There are 6 areas of service on the Service Ministry Log: Family, Parish, School, Community, World, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Service Learning Retreat. You can provide service in all six areas, in a variety of ways. We ask for a minimum of one act of service in each area. There is no time requirement for service, although one act of service per month is suggested.

Christian service can take many forms: providing food/drink/clothing for those in need; visiting the homebound/sick; helping with church programs-REP, Sunday nursery, VBS, festival; doing chores for sick/elderly; helping the Outreach Commission; raising money for charity. The important thing is to find Christ in your service. That is what takes it from service to Christian service.

Record the service you do using the Service/Ministry Log. Please keep this log up-to-date. You will reflect on your service and how it has helped you discern how you might serve in the future by completing the Service/Ministry Reflections sheet as Confirmation nears.

Christian Service is the duty of every Christian, not simply a requirement of the Confirmation process here at St. Veronica. As you move beyond Confirmation, Christian service will remain an important part of your life; a life-long task of being a disciple of Christ.



## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN DISCERNING A SERVICE FOCUS

- Look within yourself. What gifts and talents has God given you?
- Take a look at the list of service opportunities. Which ones fit your interests, gifts, and/or talents? What are you interested in?
- Ask your parents what they think might be a good choice for you.
- Pray for help in choosing service activities. Who knows you like God does?
- Step outside your comfort zone once in a while...that's how we grow.
- In choosing how to serve, ask:
  - Does it benefit someone other than myself? (It should)
  - Is it something I am already expected to do, such as family chores, school service, scout/team/club service? (It shouldn't be)
- Before you serve, pray for courage and humility to serve well. Ask God to help you to be attentive and present to those you serve, as Jesus was.
- In doing Christian service, remember:
  - Service is not always fun. When it's hard, try to picture the person you are serving as "Jesus in disguise". It is also helpful to remember how Jesus sacrificed and suffered for you. (serving Christ – Christian service)
  - People may not always be grateful for your service. At these times, remember times when you might not have been grateful to parents or others who help you.
  - Your attitude is more important than the task itself. Consider the joy and compassion Jesus showed to all He served or encountered.
  - See Christ in those you serve. Consider the inherent dignity of each person, made in the image and likeness of God...like YOU.
  - Represent Christ well. You are His Body. To those you serve, YOU are the Catholic Church. Be Christ to them. Represent the Church and St. Veronica Parish well. When you meet people let them know you are a member of our parish. Work the whole time, follow all directions, be cheerful, be attentive. What would Jesus do???
  - Be totally present to the people you serve.
    - Look them in the eye. Speak to them with respect and kindness.
    - Ask their name; share yours. Give them the dignity they deserve.
    - What matters most is the love you put into your service.
- After your service:
  - Take some time to reflect. What did you enjoy or learn or take away from this experience of Christian service. Did this service change you or help you grow? Do you look at things a little differently than before?
  - Think about the people you served. What did they say or do in response to your service? How did you feel?
  - Thank God for this opportunity to serve Him in His people.
  - Ask if HOW you served made it truly **Christian** service.



- Consider whether this is a type of service you would like to continue to do in response to your Baptismal call to serve.
- Fill out your Service Ministry Log for this service while its fresh in your mind.