

SOPHOMORE SERVICE PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

In the Book of Proverbs, it is written that the person “who pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor” (21:21).

Our school Vision Statement reflects this sentiment by noting that “We live and teach the Gospel of Jesus...[We are] a service oriented community. In serving God and others, students show the dignity and respect due human life.” In acknowledging that God has blessed us with many gifts and talents, each of us, as followers of the living Christ, is called to share these gifts with others. In this way, not only do we build community, but we help to make the Kingdom of God a reality.

The spirit of Christian service is certainly thriving within you, nurtured by your faith, family and friends. Therefore, the goal of this project is not to add any additional burden to your already busy life, but to simply recognize and acknowledge that which you are no doubt already doing: acts of charity and kindness toward others. Additionally, this project gives you a chance to reflect upon the importance of giving of yourself for the benefit of others.

GUIDELINES

1. Ten hours of documented service will be required by March 31, 2011.
2. Your service hours must be performed for the benefit of your neighborhood/parish community--not service for your immediate family (as this was the focus of your freshman service work).
3. Strive to make the service something other than what is normally expected of you. Also, because this is a service project, you may NOT receive any type of compensation for it.
4. All hours of service must be verified by having the person you assisted, or the moderator/coach of an activity, sign the appropriate item.
5. Your parents/guardians must also verify your service hours by signing his/her name to the attached verification sheet.
6. A two to three page reflection paper will be required in order to give you the opportunity to process the significance of your service experience and to reflect upon any new insights that you may have had. Please type and double—space your paper.

Some suggested reflective questions:

- How did you feel when you were able to help others?
- What response or reaction did you get from those you helped, if any?
- In serving others, what talents/gifts did you actually use? For example: physical gifts? mental gifts? emotional talents? spiritual talents? A combination of these? Others? Name them.

- Name or list the short term/long term results of your service activity: for yourself, the people/person that you helped.
- “Link up” your experience to something that you have studied/learned here in one of your theology classes. What was it? Be specific! Name it!
- Name what was difficult or easy for you during your service.
- What new insights about people or yourself came out of your service experience? Name them.
- Try answering this question: “Because I did what I did, I found out that...”
- Are you able to see the “deeper level” of what it was that you did even though it may have been a simple mundane task? Name what you now see about it.
- What is it that you want to thank God for now? Name it and be blessed!!

Failure to complete either requirement will result in the lowering of one letter grade in his/her Sophomore theology class.

SERVICE POSSIBILITIES

REMEMBER: THESE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OTHER THAN YOUR OWN FAMILY OR AT PROVIDENCE.

- babysitting
- tutoring grade school children
- household chores, such as cleaning, washing windows or floors laundry, vacuuming, gardening, etc.
- running errands
- coaching or assisting various sports teams, including those at your parish grade school
- moderating or helping with various local or parish clubs
- neighborhood or parish clean-up projects
- parish P.A.D.S./ homeless shelter/ pantry projects
- religious education aide/catechist
- greeter/usher at weekend Masses
- choir member/musician for church
- member of parish youth ministry/Teen Life Board

As much as possible, please be involved in activities where you are working with, and for, others, instead of being isolated.

If you have any questions about other service possibilities, please feel free to discuss them with your Theology Teacher or Fr. Merkelis in the Pastoral Office.