

Senior A.C.T.S. (A Call To Serve)

An Invitation to Service

“While love of God is the great commandment that first has to be impressed on us, love of neighbor the second, one begins all the same from the second in order to attain to the first” For if you do not love the person whom you can see, how will you be able to love God, whom you cannot see?”

Sermon 265, 9

Dear Member of the Class of 2021:

As the above quote from St. Augustine reminds us, love of God and love of neighbor is inseparable. Simply put, we cannot love God without loving our neighbor. It is through our service that we are able to love our neighbor, and thus, through our service, we are able to love God. Therefore, “the call” to service is an essential part of the formation of students at Providence Catholic High School. As members of an Augustinian community we are called to follow the Rule of St. Augustine by living “together in oneness of mind and heart” (Rule I.9).

As the leaders of this community, we expect more of you than in previous years. As St. Luke records in his Gospel, Jesus tells us that “much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more” (Luke 12:48).

Seniors are expected to complete a minimum of 25 hours of service to the Church. Regardless of where you complete your service hours, please remember that your service is to be an example of “Christian witness” in which you demonstrate your connection to the Augustinian Core Values of Truth, Unity, and Love. Please remember the importance of “servant leadership” as your service should lead others to follow your example. Finally, Christian service is to be a “ministry of presence” and not mere busy work. Keep this in mind in the selection of your service activities. Use your service activities as opportunities to help others experience God’s love through your love. As you complete your service, reflect on the concepts of “Christian witness”, “servant leadership”, and a “ministry of presence”.

After completing your service, you will share your reflections in two ways. First, you will write a brief reflective essay of your experiences. This is not meant to simply describe what you did. The purpose of this reflection is to identify how the service was a “ministry of presence” and exhibited “servant leadership”. Second, you will either speak with me in person or submit a brief video reflection using www.flipgrid.com. The focus of this reflection will be how your service demonstrated “Christian witness” or how you showed your faith through your service. More detailed information about these tasks will be made available on the A.C.T.S. Hours page.

Both the written reflection and the conversation/video reflection will be due on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. These components may also be completed early if you wish.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the various components and requirements for successful completion of your Senior A.C.T.S. Hours. As stated in the Providence Catholic Student Handbook: "Failure to complete the A.C.T.S. requirements will result in being locked out of the student portal. Diplomas and transcripts will be withheld until the requirement is completed."

As you begin this process, I encourage to not view this as simply a "graduation requirement". Rather, I hope that you will look at this experience as an opportunity to grow in your faith as you continue your journey with God. I am confident that with this perspective, you will find this to be a rewarding experience as you bring God's love to others. Please know that I will be walking with you on this journey and of my willingness to assist you along the way. My best advice is to simply throw yourself fully into this opportunity and allow the love of God to work through you as you help others experience God's love through your service in God's name. I wish you all the best in this process and pray that this is a meaningful way for you to conclude your time as a member of this community of faith.

Sincerely,

Mr. Oliver