

CHRISTIAN SERVICE GUIDE

2009-2010

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
Can that faith save him?*

*If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you
says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"
but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?
So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:14-17

Confirmed Roman Catholics profess discipleship [followers of Jesus the Christ] and practice it. There are opportunities all around us to practice our faith in service to others. As a candidate for Confirmation *you will be required to account for a minimum of 12 hours of service per year.*

This guide is meant to encourage you to follow Jesus *on purpose*, in an open, honest and responsible way. Please keep in mind that service is freely and even cheerfully given in order to be truly beneficial to you and others.

All Christian service hours are the candidate's responsibility - NOT the parents! You need to seek out the service opportunities, make the appropriate phone calls, perform the service and get the form completed and turned in.

"A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs." CCC 1319

What does not count for service?

- Doing chores at home—you should be doing that anyway to contribute to the needs of your family!
- Babysitting (unless you are babysitting free of charge at the church or at a community agency as outlined above)
- Any activity where you are paid or receive something in return (badges for Scout activities, extra credit at school, etc.)
- Volunteering for a commercial entity that is making a profit from the work being done (like a cleaning company, construction company, food preparation company, etc.)

If you're unsure whether a particular volunteer opportunity would qualify for service hours, contact Theresa Pratt at 630-718-2133 or tpratt@sspeterandpaul.net .

One important criterion for choosing service projects is that Confirmation service needs to benefit needy people either in a direct or indirect manner. An example of "direct" service would be singing Christmas carols at a nursing home. An example of indirect service to the needy would be participating in a clothing drive for St. Vincent DePaul Society (you aren't directly clothing the needy, but helping an organization that does).

Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your Christian service hours requirement. Most service opportunities available through the church are in the fall and early winter months.