

SERVICE COMPONENT

CALLED TO SERVE!



Go Make a Difference This Year!

Our faith in Jesus Christ doesn't merely suggest or recommend we reach out and help those who are hungry, thirsty, poor, sick, lonely, isolated, and in need of love, care and compassion, but it is something our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to do!

So what does this mean for you? Whether you are in your first or second year of our high school "Journey" program preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to fulfill a service component as part of the process each year you are in the program. Treat this service component as if God was personally calling for you to use your time, talents, gifts and personality to truly make a difference in someone else's life! This is the call of a Catholic Christian!

Here are the details: See bottom right side for amount of hours. These service volunteering should include a variety of service and not just with one type of service.

- ◆ Once you do the service, keep track of the service on your "Record of Service Experiences" sheet
- ◆ Have someone from the service event sign your Record sheet included in this packet. If they are not available, a parent can sign as verification you did the service.
- ◆ Next fill out a reflection sheet for each service project you do. On the back of this sheet are descriptions of Catholic Social Teaching. You will use these to answer #3 on the service reflection sheet.
- ◆ Once done turn in papers to the Youth Ministry Office. **For First Year Journey youth, these are due by the end of August. For the 2nd Year Confirmation Candidates, these are due by January 15th.**
- ◆ ****During the Pandemic Year, we ask each youth to attend one of the Social Justice Office Information Zoom meetings** which will last 40 minutes, but you will be able to count it as 1 hour of service. This is an opportunity to learn about social justice efforts our parishioners are part of and they will share ideas for you to do service in that area in a time of social distancing. You will be notified of when these will be happening.
- ◆ Contact Dorothy, 630 355-8980 X117 or ym@stapostle.org for more info.

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of these, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 25:34-40

HOW MANY HOURS OF SERVICE?

- ◆ First Year Journey youth are asked to do 20 hours of service.
- ◆ 2nd Year Confirmation Candidates are asked to do 10 hours.
- ◆ For both at least one hour should be connected to St. Thomas parish.
- ◆ For both at least one hour should be connected to the greater community.



Catholic Social Teaching

The **Church's Social Teaching** is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, (from the Pope) conciliar (from the greater Church) and episcopal (from the Bishops) documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. These brief reflections below and on the back side of this sheet highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and the Dignity of the Human Person—The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, the value of human life is being threatened through various ways such as abortion, euthanasia, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Saint Thomas Confirmation “Journey” Program
Record of Service Experiences

First & Last Name: _____ Grade: _____

1st or 2nd Year in the High School Confirmation “Journey” Program? _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Email: _____

DATE	Total Hrs. Worked	Project Tasks	Signature of Supervisor or Parent

TOTAL # of hrs.	
----------------------------	--

I _____, attest that the table above accurately reflects the
(Print Name)
service experiences I have completed. Date completed & signed: _____

(Signature of Teen)

(Signature of Parent)

(Signature of Sponsor - 2nd years)

Reflection on Service Experience

Please write one for each service you do.

Name _____

Date _____

- 1) Whom did you serve and how were they helped by your service? What needs were met by your service?
- 2) What aspect of your service activity was most meaningful to you and why?
- 3) There are seven main themes of Catholic Social Teaching listed on your Service Component flyer. Which themes are most closely related to the service work you did and why? If you don't relate exactly to a particular theme, what Scripture passage or teaching of our faith applies to your work, and why is it important? (If needed, search "themes of Catholic Social Teaching on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: www.usccb.org .