



St. Vincent de Paul Confirmation 2017

Service Guidelines for Parents and Sponsors

REV 10/15

Parents and Sponsors,

You are the “Church of the Home”, a model of faith that your child(ren) will emulate. So that you can communicate how to choose service work the following may aide the process. God bless you!

God has gifted each person with many gifts, so that we might share them with our families and our Church. The early Church witnessed to the face that service in stewardship for the community was a hallmark of authentic Christian life. Therefore, service by candidates for Confirmation is an important aspect and opportunity for formation.

The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church is an outgrowth of the encounters with Christ who loved the poor so dearly, the poor in health, the poor in spirit, the socially poor and the materially poor. The “preferential option for the poor” is a helpful guide for discernment in service, along with the long tradition of the WORKS OF MERCY.

Out of our call to live the stewardship principle, anything done in love can be a moment of service for God, thus for the Church and the world. This insight was demonstrated by St. Therese of Lisieux whose “little way” showed us that “without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.” And that “Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.” As we read in the letter of St. James, “faith without works is dead.” (2:20) and works must be done in love.

It is vital that the reflection by the candidate of the service draws a connection between their service and their own personal relationship with Christ and the mission of the Church.

Thank you for guiding and monitoring your candidate’s service portion of preparation. After reviewing the guidelines, we rely on your judgment to help you determine if a particular activity should or should not be considered service. To find service work for the parish, check the parish website and bulletin regularly: www.svdpomaha.org Go to “parish outreach” tab and then “volunteer and student service opportunities.”

- A total of 4 projects must be done and a review sheet completed for each project
 - 1 service to the family/home
 - 1 service to the Parish (may include sponsor’s parish or other)
 - 1 service to the larger community
 - 1 service with a parent, guardian or sponsor
- Each project must be 75 minutes (minimum) in duration
- A variety of projects should be chosen, no duplications in service for a given year
- Candidate may not accept payments, awards, gifts or compensation of any kind
- **Service must be done for NON profit or philanthropic organizations**

Sample Service to the Family/home Ideas

- Childcare for siblings, cousins, etc
- Seasonal yard work, snow removal
- Meal preparation, clean up
- Spring/fall cleaning
- Shopping for a sick or elderly family member

Sample Service to the Parish Ideas

- On - going Ministries: Altar Server, Liturgical ministries
- Help clean the parish buildings
- Participation in Parish projects, including Outreach, listed in the bulletin and on parish website.
- Insert flyers in Sunday bulletin as needed (contact on website)
- “Heavenly dusters” clean church (contact on website)

Sample Service to the Community Ideas

- “Crop Walk” in the fall; “Light the Night Walk”; “Race for the Cure”; Special Olympics
- Parson’s House - Help write letters to friends and family; create a card on the computer; assist in gardening and weeding; play bingo, cards, or other games with residents; do music, painting or coloring in Alzheimer’s area.
- Participate in an activity sponsored by one of the many Civic or Community organizations that address the needs of the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the homeless, inadequate housing, violence, the environment, etc.
- Write 3 letters to an elected representative (city, state, or national) about a social problem about which you feel strongly. You must attach copies of your letters to your service review form. (Count as ONE service activity)
- Volunteer at the local library, hospitals, schools.

Service with a Parent

Each Confirmation candidate must do at least one “Service with a Parent”. A Confirmation Sponsor may stand in for the Parent for this activity. This is an opportunity for the adult to share and pass on their personal faith values and principles.

Requirements:

- The candidate should do some type of service together with 1 or both parents **or** his/her Confirmation sponsor or guardian.
- The service chosen may be in any area: the home/family, the parish, or the larger community.
- **Together**, the adult with the candidate complete the green “Service with a Parent Service” review form.

CORPORAL and SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Help those imprisoned.
- Welcome the stranger.
- Care for the sick.
- Bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Share your knowledge with others.
- Give advice to those who need it.
- Comfort those who suffer.
- Be patient with people.
- Forgive those who hurt you.
- Give correction to those who need it.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT:

1. Right Judgment (or counsel)
2. Wisdom
3. Understanding
4. Reverence (or piety)
5. Knowledge
6. Wonder and Awe (or fear of the Lord)
7. Courage (or fortitude)

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

1. Life and dignity of the human spirit
2. Call to family, community and participation
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The dignity of work and the rights of workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God’s creation