

Service & Catholic Culture Guidelines

As you prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, which is to be *strengthened* in the **spirit** and **Truth** of God, it is necessary to learn first hand what it means to *serve* others, *especially* when it is out of your comfort zone.

Choosing to do something that makes us a little uncomfortable is a very effective way of becoming a stronger and better person, especially when it's for another person. Like working out, it takes time, patience, and the willingness to be a little uncomfortable, but in the end, there's a payout. Fortunately for us, the Church gives people like you and me a guideline for what kinds of service we should be doing to be the best people we can be and to help others the best way.

When we feel at a loss for how to help other people and learn how to serve, we can turn to the Works of Mercy. There are two types of works of mercy; those that help with bodily needs called the corporal works of mercy (corporal, from the latin *corpus* which means body) and those that help with spiritual needs called the spiritual works of mercy.

For your service projects, you will be required to perform:

- **Eight (8) hours** within the four (4) categories Works of Mercy and four (4) Catholic Culture Experiences before you are confirmed. The works of mercy will be both spiritual and corporal. Please have your service hours cover 4 out of the 5 options below.
- You will be given one deadline for your service hours to be performed by.
- I have provided a list of all of the works of mercy with suggestions for your service projects. As well as having service opportunities provided by youth group.

<p>Types of service that WILL count for service projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work with any organization that helps with the poor or struggling <i>in society</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food kitchens- Charities- Homeless shelters- Etc.	<p>Types of service that WILL NOT count for your service projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Any odd job work for family members like yard or house work for an elderly relative, etc.- Helping younger siblings with something, like homework or sports practice- Work in animal shelters
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Below you will find listed the corporal and spiritual works of mercy with corresponding suggestions for works of service. These are merely suggestions to give you some ideas. Please reach out to me if you are not sure how to qualify a work that you might want to do that does not appear on this list at mismert@stannpv.org or 913-660-1116.

BODILY (CORPORAL) WORKS OF MERCY (c) & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY †

- 1) "I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink."
 - a. Feed the Hungry (c)
 - b. Give drink to the thirsty (c)

Service Sites: Soup kitchen, food pantry/Harvesters, Inner city missions etc.

- 2) "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
 - a. Shelter the homeless (c)
 - b. Bury the dead (c)
 - c. Bear wrongs patiently †
 - d. Forgive offenses willingly †

Service Sites: Helping with places who deal with refugees, Habitat for Humanity, Raise money for Global Orphan Project, serve at a funeral mass and use money you get to offer up a mass for the person who died, Volunteer at Alexandra's house.

- 3) "I was naked, and you clothed me."
 - a. Clothe the naked (c)
 - b. Instruct the ignorant †
 - c. Counsel the doubtful †
 - d. Comfort the afflicted †

Service Sites: Run a coat drive for kids in need, Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer at Turnstyles, Happy Bottoms.

- 4) "I was sick, and you visited me."
 - a. Comfort the sick (c)

Service Sites: Nursing homes, Parish Ministry of Caring- contact Patcentner@stannpv.org

- 5) "I was in prison, and you came to me."
 - a. Visit the imprisoned (c)
 - b. Admonish sinners †
 - c. Pray for the living and the dead †

Service Sites: St. Ann Homebound- contact Patcenter@stannpv.org

You can of course choose other things besides the suggestions provided for your service projects as long as you can provide a clear line of reasoning explaining why your service was either a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.

Please keep me informed as to the projects that you are choosing to fulfill your service hours. Some projects may not qualify for hours (e.g., working in a dog shelter is an awesome thing to do, but would not be accepted as a work of mercy, as **persons** are the object of the works of mercy and animals are not persons, therefore, etc.).

FOUR CATHOLIC CULTURE EXPERIENCES

The follow list of activities are a requirement for completing the Confirmation Formation Program at St. Ann Catholic Church. These activities need to be accomplished with your sponsor at designated times. If you are unable to make it to these designated time there will be another way to complete the experience in which you will need to write a one-page reflection on that experience.

Attend these four events a month before you are confirmed. If you cannot attend the dates that I have provided with your sponsor there will be a substitute opportunity that will be done with your sponsor on your own time and you will write a reflection on your experience.

- a. Attend a baptism at St. Ann.
- b. Go to Mount Calvary cemetery to pray for those who have died.
- c. Go to a religious order.
- d. Go to a Catholic culture celebration.

Dates for the above catholic culture experiences will be distributed after classes begin. For those not able to attend a separate sheet with guidelines will be provided after classes start.

We would like you and your sponsor to experience many different aspect of the faith as well as seeing different ways we are able to pray.

Any questions feel free to email or call Michelle Ismert, Confirmation & Youth Coordinator, mismert@stannpv.org or 913-660-1116