

# **St. Mary Catholic Church**

## **GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS**

### **Overview**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation includes participation in one or more service projects. As Catholics and as human beings we are called to live out the call of Confirmation to spread and proclaim the Catholic faith to all corners of the world. As John Paul II says, we are called to be “salt and light for the world.” This faith is shared with and expressed to others not only in our daily lives of prayer and virtue, but also in the way we love those around us through our actions, our service, our commitment to bringing the light of the Gospel to people through all we do. As St. Francis says, “preach the Gospel at all times, and if you have to use words.”

### **Requirements**

**1. The requirement is 15 hours of service for each Confirmation candidate.**

At least 5 hours each must be in service to each of the following groups:

- A. Parish
- B. Local City and Community other than parish
- C. Family, Neighbors, etc.

If you do a **significant amount of service for an organization, community group, or parish group** that involves a dedicated amount of time and energy, then you may count this for two of the groups

- 2.** A Service Log must be kept. These are to be signed by the supervisor of the service and by parents. Once your Service Log is complete, please turn it in to your religion teacher.
- 3.** All service projects must be approved by your teacher. Please do not complete a project without having it approved, so you won't find out later that it cannot be applied as Confirmation Service.
- 4.** Altar serving and babysitting does count as service. However, you cannot be paid for it to count as service; up to 5 hours can be used as service hours. Service you are already performing that is extraordinary (e.g., visiting child cancer patients at a local hospital) can be counted.

### **Suggestions for Selecting Service Projects**

- 1. Pray about it!** Examine your own talents and gifts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Do not just seek the easy way out or the fastest way to finish.
- 2. Challenge yourself and be creative!** Besides ongoing established programs at school or locally, you might have some new ideas to explore or share with others. Your service project should lead you to a greater desire to serve further, draw out virtues in your life, and ultimately bring you closer to God.
- 3. Do not go at it alone!** Discuss this with your parents, sponsor, teacher, and friends. They are all good resources and support. You may want to put together a group project with your friends such as raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or praying for one of the Diocesan seminarians for a year.
- 4. Use the list!** The list on the second page includes ideas and some contact information.
- 5. Do not stop service at 15 hours!** It's OK to keep going. Part of the reason for the service hour requirement is that we are called to serve for the rest of our lives. You can continue your service project throughout the year. In addition, prayer and fasting is also a great spiritual work of mercy for others – a great service!