

St. Edward the Confessor Grade 8 Confirmation Preparation Community Service Project

Called to Serve – Family, Parish and Community

In Matthew's Gospel (22:36-39), a man asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" We call Jesus' answer the Great Commandment: **"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** Jesus also told the man, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Service to others is an important part of your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and an essential part of living a full Christian life in imitation of Jesus. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice. *"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). When we serve, we do not limit ourselves to the things that we like to do. We find out **what others need** and then we figure out how to help them. Service involves sacrifice and sacrifice means doing things out of love for another person.

Serving others helps to build God's Kingdom. We are called to build a kinder and more just society for every human person. Service honors the dignity of human life and cares for the poor, the marginalized, the outcast, and the lonely. Although we do not serve others to feel good, when we give back to the community, we feel happier.

In preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, each seventh grade Candidate is asked to participate in one or more Community Service activities for a minimum of 15 hours. These 15 hours may come from a combination of activities. Upon completion of an activity, please write a paragraph or two based on the questions below.

Here are some suggestions for Community Service activities:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Volunteer as a Classroom Aide in the Grade 1-6 program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:30 PM, or on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:45 AM.

LOCAL COMMUNITY: Join a school club that performs Community Service Projects. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts also perform Community Service Projects.

HELP A NEIGHBOR IN NEED: Do you know of an elderly or disabled person in need of assistance? You could help them by doing shopping, yard work, reading to, or just spending time with them.

HELP A FAMILY MEMBER: You could help a brother or sister with homework, help a parent with work around the house, visit or call a grandparent, etc.

After you've completed a Community Service project, write about it based on these questions:

- Describe the service activity in which you participated.
- How did it help others? How do you think it made them feel?
- How did helping others make *you* feel?
- Do you think it made you a better person? How?
- Do you think it made you a stronger Catholic? How?

Write about your Community Service activities on the computer and email the documents in PDF or Word format to Mrs. Ann Braun at abraun@st-edwards.org anytime but *no later than June 1, 2024.*

