

Saint Francis Xavier School

Christian Service Booklet

Living the Works of Mercy



“It is in giving that we receive” - Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Name	Homeroom
Teacher	Religion Period

A Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love.
Penetrate and possess my whole being
So utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.
Shine through me and be so in me
That every soul I come in contact with
May feel Thy presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me
But only Jesus.
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine,
So to shine as to be a light to others.
Amen.



*This prayer was written by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.
She prayed it each and every day.*

Service is a basic requirement at Saint Francis Xavier. To form habits of practicing the Gospel call to love in the area of community service, the school monitors a program of Christian Service whereby each student is required to perform hours on non-remunerated community service each year within a volunteer program or individually. Although the number of required service hours is minimal over the course of the year, it is an important way of teaching the students the merits of volunteer work as the means of living out their baptism and following the Gospel.

REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Hours Required:
 - 6th Grade must complete a MINIMUM 6 hours of service.
 - 7th Grade must complete a MINIMUM 7 hours of service.
 - 8th Grade must complete a MINIMUM 4 hours of service (1st semester only).
 - Holy Thursday Retreat Preparation and Execution with Reflections will meet 2nd semester requirement
 - Service Hours are to be completed at TWO OR MORE SERVICE SITES.

- ❖ To be completed by **MONDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING**:
 - 6th Grade: Verification of at least 3 hours of service
 - 7th Grade: Verification of at least 3.5 hours of service
 - 8th Grade: Verification of at least 4 hours of service
 - ALL STUDENTS:
 - One signed verification paper per service site (available on Parish and School Website & in Religion class)
 - Complete of four short essays and a 100-150 word Scripture reflection.
 - Grading Rubric
 - 60 points for completing & verifying their service hours
 - 40 points for the required essays
 - 7 points for each short essay (depending on substance of the sentences with a possible total of 28 points)
 - 12 points for Scripture reflection (depending on substance of the sentences of the summary and essay)
 - This will count as a TEST GRADE in Religion for the 2nd quarter.
 - NOTE: As agreed to in the Student-Parent Service Covenant, both hours AND essays must be submitted whether or not credit is still possible for the essays. Without the essays the service is considered incomplete. Failure to complete these requirements by the date specified will affect the service grade given for the marking period, with a DEDUCTION OF TEN POINTS PER DAY.

- ❖ To be completed by **FIRST FRIDAY OF MAY**:
 - 6th Grade: Verification of remaining hours of service equal to a minimum of 6 hours.
 - 7th Grade: Verification of remaining hours of service equal to a minimum of 7 hours.
 - 8th Grade: Assessment made based on participation in planning and executing All-School Holy Thursday Retreat and submission of required essays

- ALL STUDENTS:
 - One signed verification paper per service site (available on Parish and School Website & and in Religion class)
 - Complete of four short essays and a 100-150 word Scripture reflection.
- Grading Rubric
 - 60 points for completing & verifying their service hours
 - 40 points for the required essays
 - 7 points for each short essay (depending on substance of the sentences with a possible total of 28 points)
 - 12 points for Scripture reflection (depending on substance of the sentences of the summary and essay)
 - This will count as a TEST GRADE in Religion for the 4th quarter.
 - NOTE: As agreed to in the Student-Parent Service Covenant, both hours AND essays must be submitted whether or not credit is still possible for the essays. Without the essays the service is considered incomplete. Failure to complete these requirements by the date specified will affect the service grade given for the marking period, with a DEDUCTION OF TEN POINTS PER DAY.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">DIRECTIVES</h2>
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- ❖ Service Hours are to be completed at TWO OR MORE SERVICE SITES
 - Example: A student who volunteers for 2 hours with Feeding Medina County must do the remaining hours of service at another site.
 - Example: A student who volunteers 10 hours as an altar server at Saint Francis Xavier Church must also complete at least one hour of additional service at another site.
 - Assisting teachers or staff at Saint Francis Xavier School during the school year may count toward no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required total hours. The remaining time must be completed at another site.
 - The Exception to this directive is that a student may do two different types of service at the same site. Example: A student may volunteer at Saint Francis Xavier Vacation Bible School and may also volunteer as a member of the children's choir at Saint Francis Xavier Church. Each semester's service reflection and essays **MUST** be written about a different type of service activity even if done at the same site.
- ❖ Students may NOT volunteer for relatives to fulfill service requirements with the exception of extraordinary medical circumstances, and only with the approval of the Religion Teacher or Principal.
- ❖ Students may NOT be away from regularly scheduled classes to fulfill the service requirement.
- ❖ Students participating as members of SFX Student Council or another pre-approved school program MAY submit these hours to fulfill the service requirement.
- ❖ Students may NOT submit hours from service resulting in recognition such as a Boy Scout Merit Badge.

- ❖ Students may NOT do a service project at commercial (for-profit) businesses. The religion teacher may grant an exception in an extreme case. Permission MUST be obtained before the service is done.
- ❖ Normally students may NOT use fundraising for one's own organization for self-interest for a service project. For example, assisting at a music-sponsored pancake breakfast at which monies raised are used to offset your personal instrument expenses is not permitted. Volunteering to assist at a music-sponsored pancake breakfast where proceeds are used to benefit the music organization is permitted.

GUIDELINES

- ❖ Students are encouraged to have their service activity approved by the Religious Education staff prior to volunteering to ensure the activity qualifies for a service learning experience.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to volunteer for a non-profit organization that provides a community service such as a hospital, nursing home or shelter, walking for charity or blood drive, or a special event such as an art auction. This will allow the students to join in the community to assist and to acquire new experiences throughout the area, showing Christ to the community.
- ❖ Special events that require volunteers will be posted on the Parish website or Google Classrooms.
- ❖ To falsify a service report or to forge an adult signature is a major discipline infraction, subject to disciplinary action. This will also result in a grade of 0% for the assignment.

REFLECTION ESSAYS

The purpose of these essays is to give the students the opportunity to think about and reflect upon that was learned from their service experience and to integrate it better into their spiritual life.

These essays are to be typed and include an MLA heading, using **five or more sentences for each**.

1. In five or more sentences, describe your experience at the service site. Tell what, when, where, and how you assisted.
2. In five or more sentences, tell what practical skills, previous personal experience, and/or **spiritual knowledge (i.e., Virtues, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Works of Mercy, etc.)** of yours helped you to perform this service.
3. In five or more sentences, describe the ways in which you think the community (school, neighborhood, town, parish, and in some rare cases, family) benefitted from your service.
4. In five or more sentences, describe how this service has influenced your spiritual life.
 - a. How has this experience helped you to grow spiritually (affected your relationship with God)?
 - b. How has this experience helped you to see those in need as Christ sees them?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- ❖ This reflective essay is to be typed and include a MLA heading
- ❖ Choose a scripture passage from the ones provided below or from elsewhere in the Bible that illustrates or demonstrates your service action.
- ❖ In your own words, write a short summary of the chosen scripture passage (2-3 sentences).
- ❖ Write a **100-150 WORD** reflection on how that scripture passage *specifically* relates to your service experience.
- ❖ Tell how your service was an act of showing Christ to another/others and how you were able to find Christ in another/others.

Potential Scripture References for the Scripture Reflection:

Mk 12:28-31 (Love of God and neighbor)

1 Cor. 13:4-13 (Love)

Mt 14:13-21 (Feeding the hungry)

Col 3:17 (Serve with thanks)

Lk 18:15-17 (Blessing of the children)

Mk 10:35-45 (Humble service)

2 Cor 9:7-9 (Cheerful advice)

Rom 12:9-13 (Loving service)

Sir 7:22 (Caring for animals)

Phil 2:1-11 (Jesus as servant)

Is 43:1-5 (Be not afraid)

Heb 6:10-11 (Service to others)

Mt 25:31-46 (Serving God by serving others)

1Tim 4:12 (Model Christian behavior)

Mk 6:30-44 (Feeding the hungry)

1 Peter 4:10-11 (Giftedness)

Is 1:15-17 (Justice)

Mt 7:12 (Golden rule)

1 Tim 5:3-8 (Care for the elderly)

NOTE:

When you staple your Service Hours packets, the pages MUST BE IN THIS ORDER:

- ❖ Essay
- ❖ Scripture Reflection
- ❖ Verification Sheet(s)