

For page linked from Service Button

St. Paul Parish School eighth grade students are required to complete fifteen hours of community service prior to graduation. It is my goal that students have at least four distinctive service opportunities. This experience prepares students to recognize their commitment to a larger community, discover individual talents, and to identify and pursue opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

This service must also be tied into the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Visit those in prison.
5. Shelter the homeless.
6. Visit the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Correct sinners.
2. Teach the ignorant.
3. Give advice to the confused.
4. Comfort those who suffer.
5. Be patient with others.
6. Forgive injuries.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

While some of the works are very specific, you need not take them literally. For example, feeding the hungry could take the form of conducting a canned food drive, preparing a meal for an elderly neighbor, or volunteering at a soup kitchen. While some volunteer opportunities like volunteering at the animal shelter, may appear to meet the criteria, the service should be of value to humans.

Two opportunities are available at St. Paul Parish School every year for students to meet part of their goal: one is the Homeless Hospitality Program which runs during the two weeks of Christmas break, and the other is a Food Fast to benefit Catholic Relief Services in early Spring. Other ideas and contact persons are posted on a bulletin board in the classroom.

There are an abundance of opportunities for students to provide service in the school setting, like participating in can-a-week and raising money for Project Starfish. However, since these are school-sponsored events, they do not meet the requirement for additional community service. I am always happy to refer students to other opportunities to complete their requirement.