

WORKS OF MERCY SERVICE PROJECT

At Baptism, we received the virtue of love by God's grace. This supernatural grace enables us to see Christ in others, to serve them without counting the costs, and to avoid hurting them. It leads us to use our gifts and talents to serve those around us in need.

In preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, service is to be done within a certain framework as defined by Bishop Soto for the entire Diocese, in his recently released "Norms for the Preparation for Confirmation for Teens." Service must be seen as a way of life, not "something to just get over and be done with." Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation here at Good Shepherd are expected to offer at least 8 hours of service to our parish in support of the many ministries that see to the spiritual needs of our faith family. *In addition*, candidates will be expected to offer at least 10 additional hours executing a service project that reflects the Works of Mercy, either Corporal or Spiritual, that benefit those in need in our community and the world which God has blessed us with and given us stewardship over.

Enclosed in this Works of Mercy (W.O.M.) Service Project Packet is the:

- 1. W.O.M. Service Project Guidelines**
- 2. Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy**
- 3. Service Project Proposal Form (due on or before November 17, 2016)**
- 4. Reflection Paper Guidelines (due on or before April 20, 2017)**
- 5. Service Project Completion Form (due on or before April 20, 2017)**

1. W.O.M. SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES

Each Works of Mercy Service Project may be done *individually*, with a *partner*, or with a *group* of no more than 5 students who are enrolled in the GSCC Confirmation Program.

Core Team Members have the authority to approve Service Project Proposals for individuals and partners. Any Service Project Proposals being submitted by a Group of 3-5 students need to be approved by the Confirmation Coordinators, Elizabeth Pott or Scotia Burrell.

Note: ALL confirmation candidates are required to submit their own individual Service Project Proposal Form, Reflection Paper, and Service Project Completion Form, even if working with a partner or group.

The candidate(s), parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Core Team Member/Confirmation Coordinators must all agree upon an acceptable project. Remember, the confirmation candidate's Core Team Member has authority to approve Individual & Partner service projects,

but if there are any concerns or questions regarding submitted service project proposals, the Confirmation Coordinators have final approval authority and may request additional information or action be taken by the candidate on the service project – so please be very thorough when submitting your Service Project Proposal Form.

This service experience is intended to broaden the horizons of the candidate. Thus, projects should involve a new service area that has not been tried by the candidate in the past.

Candidates are to complete the Works of Mercy Service Project within the timeframe of this catechetical year. Candidates are encouraged to research and talk to their parents to come up with a suitable service project idea and then submit a completed **Service Project Proposal Form** to their Core Team Member **on or before November 17, 2016**. The candidate's Core Team Member (and if necessary, Confirmation Coordinator) will review the form and...

- **If the service project is APPROVED**, the form will be placed on file with the Confirmation Coordinators and the candidate will be notified by email that the project is approved and they can move forward.
- **If the service project is NOT APPROVED**, the Core Team Member (or Confirmation Coordinator) will return the form (with questions and comments) to the candidate, who must then revise the project proposal and re-submit the form.

Once the candidate has completed all 10 (or more) hours of their Works of Mercy Service Project, he/she will write a Reflection Paper regarding their experience, complete the W.O.M. Service Project Completion Form and then turn BOTH in to their Core Team Member **on or before April 20, 2017**.

Selecting a Works of Mercy Service Project

Before choosing a service project, **think about the following questions:**

- What gifts do you especially possess now and how can you use those gifts to assist the Church in its mission to serve others?
- Does the project offer a service to a person, the parish, or the greater community, and is it being done out of love, without pay or without counting the costs?
- Is it charitable service primarily to the poor, the disadvantaged, the elderly, or handicapped (those most in need in our neighborhood/community)?
- How is the Body of Christ being strengthened through the service you choose?
- Is this an area in which you can grow in knowledge and understanding through service?
- Do you want to perform service hours working with a non-profit organization that addresses the Works of Mercy OR do you want to come up with a project that involves you making, collecting, and/or donating something?
- Need inspiration? [Google](#) "Works of Mercy Service Projects" & search Pinterest for ideas! 
- Thinking practically, will your W.O.M. Service Project require funding, and if so, how do you propose to raise funds to fulfill your service project? †

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
EDGE / ONE EIGHT Confirmation Preparation Program
9539 Racquet Court
Elk Grove, CA 95758
916-683-2963

- Will your W.O.M. Service Project require donations of goods or products, and if so, how do you propose to collect these donations of goods or products? †
- Does your W.O.M. Service Project require working directly with a Non-profit Organization and have you reached out to their contact person to discuss their needs and your proposed project with them?

† If you solicit funds or goods/products from individuals/companies who request verification of our non-profit status as a church for tax purposes, contact Elizabeth Pott at goodshepherdEDGE@gscceg.org and we will email a verification form to you that includes the parish's non-profit status information.

2. CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Every Christian has a calling and a responsibility to serve as a living example of Jesus' teachings – to serve one another. For Christians, young and old, service should be an attitude, a way of life. It is important not only to listen and understand the Word of God, but also to apply the lessons learned, through daily life and service to others. This is essential to living as a Catholic Christian following in the footsteps of Jesus. Below is a list of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy that fulfill Christ's mission of mercy.

Fulfilling the Works of Mercy for each of us is a lifelong commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:32-46 tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, we care for Christ himself.

The Corporal Works of Mercy recognizes the sacredness of human life. We learn through fulfilling these Works of Mercy for others that we are our brother's keeper. Our feelings of love for our fellow man must be accompanied by acts of charity.

- 1) Feed the hungry.
- 2) Give drink to the thirsty.
- 3) Clothe the naked.
- 4) Shelter the homeless.
- 5) Visit those in prison.
- 6) Comfort the sick.
- 7) Bury the dead.
- 8) Care of the Environment – this is in response to Pope Francis' recent remarks during the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The Spiritual Works of Mercy recognize sin, ignorance, doubt, sorrow, and other human conditions where we need to reach out in faith and love to others. How many times did Jesus rebuke with love, counsel, and teach and help those who did not know Him?

- 1) Convert/admonish sinners.
- 2) Instruct the ignorant/uninformed.
- 3) Counsel the doubtful.
- 4) Comfort the sorrowful/afflicted.
- 5) Bear wrongs patiently.
- 6) Forgive offenses/injuries.
- 7) Pray for the living and the dead.

Works of Mercy Service Project Proposal Form

Directions:

1. Print this Proposal Form out. Use blue ink and print clearly or type.
Attach additional pages as needed.
2. Have the Proposal Form signed by your parent or guardian.
3. Submit the Proposal Form to your Core Team Member for approval and signature **on or before November 17, 2016.**

Student's Name: _____

Confirmation Year 1 or Year 2 *(please circle)*

Home Phone: _____

Sunday or Thursday *(please circle)*

Title of your Service Project: _____

If applicable, list any student(s) you propose to complete this project with. List their full name(s)

Project Description – What is your service project? **Be specific** about what you propose to do.

Need – Why did you choose this service project? Why is this project needed? For whom will it be valuable? What Work(s) of Mercy does this service project address?

Works of Mercy Service Project Proposal Form

If your service project involves you working with a Non-profit Organization or GSCC Ministry, please provide the following:

Non-profit Organization/GSCC Ministry: _____

Non-profit Organization/Ministry Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Email: _____ Phone: _____

Have you already contacted this organization to make arrangements to perform service hours or to do a project that meets their need(s)? **Yes** or **No** *(please circle)*

If so, what arrangements have you made with this non-profit organization?

Are you requesting to ask for donations of goods/products at church? Yes or No *(please circle)*

If Yes, pre-approval must be granted by one of the Confirmation Coordinators and there will be a specific procedure for requesting donations at church that **MUST** be followed. _____

Confirmation Coordinator's Approval

I have reviewed my son's/daughter's Works of Mercy Service Project proposal and understand that this service project is a requirement of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Confirmation Preparation Program.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

4. REFLECTION PAPER GUIDELINES

After completing their W.O.M. Service Project, each candidate for Confirmation needs to write a reflection paper based upon their service experience. This is due **on or before April 20, 2017**.

Preparing to Write Your Confirmation Service Reflection Paper

- Throughout all aspects of your service project, you are encouraged to record your experiences of serving others in a **journal** and if possible, take photos.
- When you have completed the service project, use your journal to write about the effect this service has had on you.
- Your service project Reflection Paper should be about 2 pages in length (approximately 500-750 words –single spaced).

The W.O.M. Service Project Reflection Paper should **clearly address the following points**:

- I shared God's love with others by...(type of service)
- What corporal and/or spiritual work of mercy did this service project reflect?
- I chose to do this service because...
- Describe what you did.
- Who benefitted from the service?
- How did you, the Confirmation Candidate, feel about the service you performed?
- How were your parents/family involved in this service project with you, and how did this experience impact you and your family?
- How has this service project helped you prepare for Confirmation?
- How do you see service being a part of your life in the future?
- Would you do this service again? Why or why not?
- How do you think the Sacrament of Confirmation will affect your involvement in serving others in the future?

5. SERVICE PROJECT COMPLETION FORM

After completing their W.O.M. Service Project, each candidate for Confirmation must also fill out the W.O.M. Service Project Completion Form and turn it in **ALONG WITH** the Reflection Paper **on or before April 20, 2017**. Please feel free to include up to 10 photos of your service project with your Reflection Paper and Completion Form.

- If your W.O.M. Service Project required you to work directly with a Non-profit Organization, the organization's contact person or adult supervisor will need to sign the Completion Form verifying your service for the Non-profit.
- If your W.O.M. Service Project did not require you to work directly with a Non-profit Organization, then the candidate's parent/guardian will sign the Completion Form verifying your completion of the project.

Community Service **Due Date Reminders**

- **W.O.M. Service Project Proposal Form due on or before October 27, 2016.**
- **W.O.M. Service Project Reflection Paper due on or before April 17, 2017.**
- **W.O.M. Service Project Completion Form due on or before April 17, 2017.**
- **Parish & Community Service Log (at least 8) due on or before April 21, 2017.**

Works of Mercy Service Project Completion Form

Worked with a Non-profit Organization/GSCC Ministry

If your service project involved you performing service hours directly with a Non-profit Organization or GSCC Ministry, please have the Non-profit Organization or GSCC Ministry Contact Person or Supervising Adult provide the following:

I acknowledge that _____ (candidate's name) has completed _____ hours of service. This service consisted of:

Contact Person or Supervising Adult's Printed Name: _____

Contact Person or Supervising Adult's Signature: _____

Non-profit Organization/GSCC Ministry: _____

Contact Person's Email: _____ Phone: _____

Did not work with a Non-profit Organization/GSCC Ministry

If your service project did NOT involve directly performing service hours with a Non-profit Organization and/or GSCC Ministry, please have your parent/guardian provide the following:

I acknowledge that my son/daughter _____ (candidate's name) has completed _____ hours of service on this Works of Mercy Service Project.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Email: _____ Phone: _____