

INDEPENDENT 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 in the first year of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to complete 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:

- 1. W.O.M. Service Project Guidelines**
- 2. Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy**
- 3. Service Project Proposal Form**
- 4. Reflection Paper Guidelines**
- 5. Service Project Completion Form**

1. W.O.M. SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES

Each Works of Mercy Service Project MUST be approved by the Confirmation Coordinator, Elizabeth Pott, PRIOR to you beginning your Service Project.

Each Works of Mercy Service Project MUST include 12-15 (or more) hours of service on this project.

Please be very thorough when describing WHAT your Works of Mercy Service Project will be when submitting your Service Project Proposal Form. If we do not have sufficient information about what your project will entail, it will be returned to you to add more information and this will delay your approval.


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 Confirmation Coordinator **by the due date**.

- **If the service project is APPROVED**, the form will be kept 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 Confirmation Coordinator will either email the student with additional questions **OR** 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 12-15 (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 the Confirmation Coordinator **by the due date**.

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 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? †
- 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 can provide a letter that includes the parish's non-profit status information for tax purposes. **IMPORTANT: NO funds or donations may be solicited from parishioners at Church.**

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 & Animals – 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.

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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 or GSCC Ministry: _____

Non-profit Organization or 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? (List dates, times, activities you will do)

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: _____

Confirmation Coordinator's Use Only:

Approved on: _____ Returned to Student for additional information on: _____

Notes: _____

4. REFLECTION PAPER GUIDELINES

After completing your W.O.M. Service Project, you need to write a reflection paper based upon your service experience.

W.O.M. Service Project Reflection Paper Instructions

- Your Reflection Paper should be about 2 pages in length (approximately **750-1000 words – typed, single spaced** with **1 inch margins** and a **12 point font**).
- If you have photos from your service project, please include 2-3 photos at the END of the Reflection Essay (**no more**).
- You may either email the Reflection Paper to Elizabeth @ GoodShepherdEDGE@gscceg.org or bring in a hard copy to ONE EIGHT Class.
- Do NOT use Google Docs to send your Reflection Essay (our computer can't print from this format).

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

- I shared God's love with others by...(type of service)
- What Corporal and/or Spiritual Work(s) of Mercy did this service project reflect?
- I chose to do this service because...
- Describe what you did (a BRIEF description – 2-3 sentences at most).
- 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 your W.O.M. Service Project, you need to also fill out the W.O.M. Service Project Completion Form and turn it in **ALONG WITH** the Reflection Paper **by the due date**. Please feel free to include up to 5 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.

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: _____

OR

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: _____