



**SAINT MARK'S PARISH
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND**

Confirmation Candidate Service Project

**“OPEN YOUR MOUTH, DECREE WHAT IS JUST,
DEFEND THE NEEDY AND THE POOR.” – PROVERBS 31:9**

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.” – MATTHEW 5:6**

“IT IS NOT HOW MUCH WE DO, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT IN THE ACTION WE DO.” – MOTHER TERESA

Helping others, building a fair, healthy society, and defending the weak are all good and moral acts that people of all faiths can do. As Christians, however, we help, build and defend not simply because it is within us to do so, but because we are commanded to do so by Jesus Christ. As Christ came into the world to save humanity, so we must also enter the world to do whatever we can to help—no matter what are skills or means will allow. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, all Catholics are called to service of others. And so we come to this important Confirmation Requirement: *Service*.

Using the examples of service projects on the following page, talk to your sponsor about what it is you think you can offer to your parish, to your community, to your world. God has given everyone a unique blend of gifts, even if we don't always know what they are. In fact, by helping others we can sometimes learn about our gifts and strengths.

Guidelines on the service projects:

- ✠ They are to be “complete” and written up and handed in by the Palm Sunday.
- ✠ They should show initiative and imagination—but they must show sincere compassion for others.
- ✠ They must require thought and reflection—but they should also be something you find satisfaction in doing.
- ✠ Feel free to get help from others, engage the parish or interview anyone for information.
- ✠ Service projects typically fall into one of the following categories. Yours can be in one of these, or a combination.

- **Charity Projects** provide a temporary, short-term relief to the situation.
- **Education Projects** inform more people about the issue and our faith perspective.
- **Legislative Projects** reach out to secular decision makers to seek help for those who need it.
- **Community Development Projects** encourage business, schools, etc., to get involved.

Guidelines on the service project write-up.

- ✠ A service-project assessment form will be provided to prepare a presentation when the project is complete.
- ✠ When you are working on your project, ask yourself the following questions:
 - What emotions did I experience and what facts did I learn? What was the result of my actions? What helped or prevented me from achieving my goals?
 - Who helped when they didn't have to? Who didn't help when they should have? Who benefited most from my work? Who could benefit in the future if my work continues? Who could continue my work?
 - Do I judge others too quickly? Do I understand enough about a person to understand their reactions? Do I expect too much or too little from others?
 - How does my faith in Jesus Christ affect what I am doing? Did others learn about my faith by my work? How can I evangelize by the works that I do?
- ✠ Think about how your work in service to others could become a career or vocation.

SAMPLE SERVICE PROJECTS:

The following list is intended to show you the types of projects you should be considering, and the variety of possible projects. You may choose from these or come up with your own. You may also team up with a fellow candidate on a project—and if others in the class are interested in the same project, I'll expect you to work as a team, with each member contributing their talents in equal proportion. Don't be hesitant to ask friends, family, or your sponsor to join in. They can't do the work for you, but they can help your work assist more people.

1. Develop a Catholic book-reading club at a local bookstore or library that offers their facilities for public use. This must include the development of a list of books about the Catholic faith, written for various ages. Organize the times, advertise the club, market the idea.
2. Develop a parish program to adopt a nursing home, orphanage or other institution to help those in need. Learn about the needs of the institution, explain these needs to the parish and seek a program for on-going help.
3. Learn about the needs of the poor in your neighborhood or city and enlist the help of local businesses to help specific needs. As best as possible measure your success.
4. Do you play music, sing, dance or entertain in some way? Form a Catholic arts group to perform for local hospitals, nursing homes, etc., to both entertain and teach the faith. Find out from the audience what they like for entertainment and why.
5. Are you interested in science, astronomy, meteorology, or some other interesting topic? Put together a speaking program for local nursing homes. Find out from the people there how to make your talk the most exciting and interesting for the audience.
6. Are you a trained in martial arts, or other defensive arts? Provide demonstrations of your talents for those who may not otherwise be able to see such events, and maybe even help them learn a little.
7. If you play or coach sports, develop a Sportsmanship Talk to give to younger players. The talk should incorporate your faith and love of sports by teaching sportsmanship, fairness and community involvement. Market and advertise the talk, and schedule as many as you can—and survey the people who come and see what they learned.
8. Develop a pro-life education program for politicians. Use your writing, artistic and other skills to communicate the Catholic teachings on life.
9. Form a Rosary training group. Many Catholic adults don't know how to pray the Rosary. Teach them how and why we pray the Rosary, and then pray as a group for a worthy cause, perhaps joining other diocesan groups who already do this as a public example of Catholic faith.
10. Research about an environmental problem in your neighborhood or city. Find out how you and friends can help solve that problem, and as best as possible solve it.
11. Raise money for your parish or a local charity by designing, manufacturing and selling pro-Catholic T-shirts or other items.
12. Research the needs of poor parishes in the diocese. Develop a plan to discover resources to help them by personally delivering the goods or services that you are able to find.
13. Volunteer to meet with a war veteran to write their stories, or create a work of art that helps tell a story. This will require you to find out who in your parish is a veteran, interview them and work with them to make sure you get the story correct!
14. Research and learn about the toxins in our home and garden products. Find out about safer, natural alternatives. Create an educational program about this for the parish.
15. Research and learn about volunteer work in the social justice programs within the diocese. Create a program to educate parish members and sign them up to help others!

