

Christian Service Requirements

St. Vincent – St. Mary High School

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Mt. 25

Led by Jesus, we find those who are hungry for food or for love, those who are thirsty for water or for attention, those who are a stranger in our midst, in our classes, and in our neighborhoods. As we *proclaim, embody, and serve* the Kingdom of God through service to others, it is in and through our interactions with the *least of these* that we will come to know the face of God in a new and beautiful way; and those served will come to know the face of God through our service to them.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please contact your religion teacher.

General Requirements:

1. As a condition for graduation from St. Vincent – St. Mary High School all students must engage in service to others for 25 hours each of their four years, for a minimum **total of 100 hours**. These efforts will award the student $\frac{1}{4}$ credit per year through the Religion Curriculum, which, when added to the course work of Religious Education, will afford students 5 credits of Religion at the end of four years with us..
2. Each year of service is focused on a *particular* area of need (See p. 2 & 3 of these guidelines). Each service effort must be documented with a signature from a supervisor at the site of the service completed (See Addendum #1). Students will select and arrange for their own projects based on the list described on pages 2 & 3. Any activity not listed here may be served only with a *written request from the student and expressed permission from a student’s religion teacher*.
3. After Christian service hours are completed each year, students will engage in a process of **Theological Reflection** (*related to their service*) to deepen their awareness of and appreciation for those served and to integrate their service activity into their journeys of faith as outlined in the course of study for each year. A specific rubric must be followed in writing the reflection paper(Addendum #2) and a grade will be issued in response to the quality of this effort.
4. Due to end of year activities, service hours and reflection papers must be completed and returned to your religion teacher by **May 1** each year. Compliance with this deadline offers the student the fullest advantage for the grade for Christian Service that is recorded on a student’s official transcript. **Any work (Christian service hours or written paper) still incomplete at the end of the year will result in the student earning an “F” for Christian Service for that school year, and all deficiencies will be added to the following year’s requirements. All students must complete 100 hours of Christian Service in order to participate in graduation at the end of their 4 years at St. Vincent – St. Mary.**
5. Many students serve above and beyond the required number of hours each year, demonstrating their commitment to Jesus’ call that His disciples reach out and make a difference in the lives of those in need. Each year, two seniors are selected by committee for their extraordinary commitment and evident witness to our Faith and our mission to “*Lead and to Serve.*” These two are honored with the ***Celtic High Cross Award***.

Freshman Guidelines:

Academic Content: The Church is the visible sign of Christ’s presence among us; the Sacrament of Love throughout the world. We learn through the instrument of the Church how to live as Christians in our world. Therefore, every student at St. Vincent - St. Mary High School must serve his or her parish/church for a minimum of 20 hours during his/her freshman year.

Defining Question: **How do I reflect the values espoused by my Church through my service to it?** (Approximately 5 additional hours may be needed to complete the theological reflection based on this question due by May 1).

15 hours: Acceptable activities:

*If a student has no church affiliation, he or she may serve at a friend’s church, or call St. Vincent - St. Mary High School to inquire about other possibilities. **Inquiries must be made before school begins in the fall.***

Bible Study	CCD or PSR	Church Choir	Musician
Reader	Altar Server	Gardening/yard work	Babysitting for Mass
Tutoring after school	Parish dinners	Hunger center	Market Day
CYO Activities	Any other parish activity		

10 flexible hours: spent serving in any of the other three categories listed on this information sheet.

Total: 25 hours on task

Sophomore Guidelines:

Academic Content: Jesus is the role model for our outreach to the poor and marginalized. The Hebrew Scriptures prophetically announce the coming of the Kingdom and Christian Scriptures Jesus shows us how Jesus lived this out in His own Paschal Mystery - His life, death and resurrection. Therefore, every student at St. Vincent - St. Mary High School will serve the least among us, growing in gratitude and humility.

Defining Question: **How do I reflect the mission and message of Jesus through my service to the least among us?** (Approximately 5 additional hours may be needed to complete the theological reflection based on this question due by May 1).

15 hours: Acceptable activities:

Soup kitchens	Nursing Homes	All Star Training Club	Community Pregnancy Center
Haven of Rest	Right to Life	Good Samaritan Center	Open M
Ronald McDonald House	Catholic Worker Home	Seeds of Change Tutoring	CYO Adult Day Care

10 flexible hours may be spent serving in any of the other three categories listed on this information sheet.

Total: 25 hours on task.

Junior Guidelines:

Academic Content: Jesus calls us to Discipleship, to reach out beyond our own boundaries and create a better world. Systemic change is needed to enhance the lives of those who suffer from oppression, marginalization, and poverty. We look to the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching for inspiration to create this type of systemic change.

Defining Question: **How do I reflect the gospel values of Justice through my work for Social Justice?** (Approximately 5 additional hours may be needed to complete the theological reflection due by May 1).

15 hours must be spent following the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching creating systemic change through a formally guided “*Project Based Learning*” experience during the Junior year. *Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching:*

Life & Dignity of Human Person	Call to Family, Community, & Participation	Rights and Responsibilities
Option for the Poor	Dignity of Work and Workers	Solidarity
Care for God’s Creation	Promotion of Peace	

(The area of War & Peace can be considered as a part of a number of these values, or separately, on its own merits).

10 flexible hours may be spent serving in any of the other three categories listed on this information sheet.

Total: 25 hours on task.

Senior Guidelines:

Academic Content: By selecting their own course work this year, seniors begin to extend their world view beyond High School and prepare to understand their role and to prepare to become Christian leaders of their communities. Leadership within and beyond this community are goals that give focus to this year’s service requirement.

Defining Question: **How have I expressed and given witness to Christian Leadership through my service to this and the wider community?** (Approximately 5 additional hours may be needed to complete the theological reflection due by May 1).

15 hours Acceptable Service:

Open Houses	7 th Grade Visitation	Planning Retreats	CYO Search Team
Mission Trips	Health Fairs	Blood Drives	Liturgical Choir
Reader/Server for STVM	Walk – a – Thons	Assisting coaches	Etc.

10 flexible hours may be spent serving in any of the four categories listed on this information sheet.

Total: 25 hours on task.