

Muskegon

Catholic

Service

Manual

High School

2009-2010

The Corporal Works of Mercy

FEED THE HUNGRY

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

CLOTH THE NAKED

CARE FOR THE SICK

VISIT THE IMPRISONED

BURY THE DEAD

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

Convert the sinner

Instruct the ignorant

Counsel the doubtful

Comfort the sorrowful

Bear wrongs patiently

Forgive injuries

Pray for the living and the dead

The Eight Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Dignity of the Human Person and Respect for Life

The Call to Family, Community and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Common Good

Preferential Option and Love for the Poor

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Stewardship

“Dear young people, go to meet Jesus the Savior! Love and adore Him in the Eucharist. He is present in the Holy Mass that makes sacramentally present the sacrifice of the Cross. He comes into us in Holy Communion and remains in the tabernacles of our churches, because He is our friend, the friend of all, especially of you young people, who are so much in need of confidence and love. ...The twenty-first century will be how you young people will want it to be and will make it. After so much violence and oppression, the world needs young people capable of ‘building bridges’ to unite and reconcile. ...Only courageous young people, with minds and hearts open to high and generous ideals, will be able to restore beauty to life and to human relationships.” Pope John Paul II, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 14, 2000

At Muskegon Catholic High School, our service to others is based on the Gospel: "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt. 25:40) Christ calls us to serve others. In addition, the Tradition of the Catholic Church gives us the Works of Mercy and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to guide us. At Muskegon Catholic, we believe service is an integral part of our Catholic Faith, and a key component of the Crusader spirit. With this in mind, Muskegon Catholic High School will highlight service every year during our Lenten Service Spotlight, a liturgical season program that highlights Crusader service at school, parishes and our community.

We have three levels of service at MCC: school, parish and community. **All service must be performed for a non-profit organization. Service to family members, for-profit businesses/organizations, etc., even if service is performed without pay, will not count towards a student's service hours.** *If there is ever any question as to whether or not a service will "count", check with your religion teacher BEFORE beginning the service.* Students will participate in all three levels during a four-year education at Muskegon Catholic High School.

The goal of our service program is not to have students accumulate a certain amount of hours; service should NOT be a matter of simply "punching the clock". Our hope is that, by encouraging and enabling students in learning to serve others, the students will make service a way of life during their high school years and beyond. Please remember that service is a graduation requirement for Muskegon Catholic High School.

All service is overseen by the Campus Ministry Office, in cooperation with the Religion Department. Service for Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior years will account for 10% of the student's grade in religion class. Senior Service will be a separate credit/no credit class.

All service requirements may be completed during the summer vacation. If a student desires to complete their service requirement during the summer vacation the particular service **must** receive approval, by the Religion Department before the summer vacation begins.

Freshmen must complete 20 hours of service, 10 hours per semester, in either the area of school or parish.

Sophomores must complete 25 hours of service, 12.5 hours per semester, in either the area of school or parish.

Juniors must complete 30 hours of service, 15 per semester, in any of the three areas of service.

Seniors must complete 50 hours of service. Senior service is broken down into the following requirements:

- 1) 35 Hour Senior Community Service Project (research and approval of project takes place at the end of students Junior year)
- 2) 5 Hours to Rainbow Auction
- 3) 10 Hours to local parishes during Senior Seminar

FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORE SERVICE

Students at these grade levels will need to fulfill their service hours either at school or at their church/parish. Examples of parish service would be altar serving, music ministry and greeters. School service examples would be offering time to a teacher for classroom cleaning, working on fundraisers, serving at Mass, and acting as a host for school Open Houses. Students that participate in any school mission trips or school service projects may count this for their service hour commitments.

These students will need to have signed service sheets detailing their service. These sheets are available in the Campus Ministry Office and from the Religion teachers. Service sheets will be due to their religion teachers at dates given by those teachers.

JUNIOR SERVICE

Juniors will be asked to perform their 30 hours of service in any of the three acceptable service areas. That is school, parish/church, or community/non-profit.

In addition, during second semester of his/her junior year, a student will begin their Senior Community Service Project by conducting research on a variety of community service opportunities, under the guidance of the Religion Department. On the student's part, this may include phone calling, interviews, visits, and/or computer research, so that a student may find a service opportunity that he/she will find most meaningful. Once a student finds a service opportunity, the student will be asked to make a 35 hour commitment, to be fulfilled over the following year. (Since many service opportunities need summer volunteers, we ask that the student do this research and commitment PRIOR to end of the junior year.)

SENIOR SERVICE

Each senior will be assigned a Senior Service Advisor, who will meet with that student, and others, in a small group, periodically, beginning at the end of junior year and throughout senior year. The Senior Service Advisor will be available to answer student questions, help with community contacts, make sure seniors are "on track" with service hours, preparing their senior service report, etc. The Advisor's role is NOT to make contacts for the senior or to arrange service hours. That is the senior's responsibility.

In April of the senior year, students will be asked to prepare and present a report to their Senior Service Advisor and other seniors in their group regarding their 35 hour service commitment experience.

The report must meet the following criteria:

- What type of research was conducted before choosing a project?
- Why the student eventually chose the service opportunity they did.
- What the student learned in the experience.
- What spiritual and or corporal works of mercy were touched upon?
- How the student's faith was affected during the experience.
- What the student believes he/she contributed to the service opportunity.

Each Senior student must be ready to present an oral report. This report must have a written and visual aspect detailing the service opportunity.

Reports may be no shorter than five minutes and no longer than eight minutes and must include proper contact information of the organization the student volunteered for. Every senior presentation will be subject to follow-up.

Seniors are also required to offer 5 hours of service to the annual Rainbow Auction.

Finally, during the month of May, senior students will be asked to focus on serving their parish/community in a focused program, as part of Senior Seminar. During this time, seniors will give 10 hours of service, working with a team, directed by the Campus Ministry Office to our local supporting parishes. *This 10 hour commitment is meant to positively influence both the seniors and their parishes prior to graduation – a final “gift” from the senior class to their faith communities. If a student is not affiliated with a particular faith community, the Campus Ministry Office will offer guidance for appropriate service during this time.*

STUDENT AND PARENT PLEDGE SHEET FOR MUSKEGON CATHOLIC SERVICE

By signing this, you acknowledge that you have read and understand all the information in the MCC service booklet.

As a student you agree to perform the necessary service hours in the areas designated for your grade level. You also acknowledge that you understand what constitutes service for your grade level and what is not acceptable (i.e. doing chores for no pay for a relative, for example). You understand that it is YOUR responsibility to find out if certain service will fulfill MCC service requirements.

As a parent , by signing this, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the MCC Service booklet, and agree to support your student in his/her service commitments.

This form must be signed and returned to your student's religion teacher by Sept. 11, 2009.

student signature

parent signature

MCC SERVICE SHEET

Student Name _____

Type of Service (school, parish, community) _____

Date of Service _____

Place of Service (be specific!) _____

In the space below, please explain specifically what you did for your service hours. Be specific and thorough, including when and where service was done, what you did, and why the service was performed.

Name of supervisor (please print): _____

Signature of supervisor: _____

Contact phone number: _____

