

Service Hour Program at St. Catherine of Siena

Service, while not the beginning of the Christian life, is an integral and necessary part of it. The service hour program at St. Catherine is designed, not only to teach our students the value of Christian service, but to help them learn to reflect theologically on that service. We consider the program, not to be an extra-curricular activity, but a kind of lab to their religion class. There are three parts to the program: the service in which they choose to engage, a short (guided) reflection paper on that service, and the chance to share their reflection with their classmates, that they might learn from each other's experience.

A. The Service Hours

There are three categories of service hours: Home, Community, and Parish.

8th Grade – 30 hours (Students must have at least 10 hours in each of the three categories)

7th Grade – 18 hours (Students must have at least 6 hours in each of the three categories)

6th Grade – 12 hours (Students must have at least 4 hours in each of the three categories)

5th Grade – 6 hours (Students must have at least 2 hours in each of the three categories)

B. The Reflection Paper

Students will be required to complete three Personal Reflection Papers throughout the school year. The first Personal Reflection Paper is due by 29 October, 2021; the second is due by 4 February, 2022; and the third by 29 April, 2022. Students should choose the experience that had the most profound effect on them personally to use as the basis for their paper. Students do not need to complete all of the service hours for each due date prior to writing their Personal Reflection Paper. Each Personal Reflection Paper should answer the following questions:

1. What service opportunity did you choose?
2. Why did you choose this particular service opportunity?
3. Describe in some detail what happened while providing this service opportunity, including your specific role and responsibilities.
4. Why did you choose *to write about* this service experience?
5. As you reflect on your experience, what Scripture passage, homily, book, Religion lesson, prayer, or past experience comes to mind?
6. What did you learn from this experience? How are you different because of this service experience? For example, how did this experience change you; what did you learn about those you served; what is something someone else could benefit from knowing?

C. The Sharing of Reflections

Students will have an opportunity to share their reflections with the other students in their Religion class; these reflections then becoming the basis for discussion and conversation.