

Dear Confirmation Candidate and Parents/Guardians;

With every ending there comes a new beginning so as you/your child finishes his or her 8th grade year of school it is time to start looking at the beginning of the freshman year. The freshman year for our Pastoral Region CCD program is based on preparing the students for Confirmation. In our confirmation preparation process there is an attempt to integrate **instruction, prayer, and service**, helping those who are preparing for the sacrament to understand and experience more completely the Church community into which they will be confirmed. This goal is fulfilled through a program of religious instruction, opportunities for service and through experiences of prayer and reflection. How well a student is prepared to celebrate the sacrament depends greatly on how seriously he/she approaches the opportunities and experiences provided.

Service: Service is an essential component of the preparation process. Service provides our candidates with an opportunity to reach out beyond themselves, to give freely of their time, energy, and talents to those in our parish and in our community who are in need. Full membership in the church includes accepting full responsibility to **be** the church in the world. **Being the church** means responding as Jesus did, by reaching out and giving of ourselves. Candidates are encouraged to participate in group as well as individual service projects.

Each candidate must participate in service to others with a minimum total of 20 hours. By our Baptism each of us is called to be of service to one another. We perform acts of service in all areas - **Personal Growth, Family, Parish, and the larger Community**. By doing service in these areas, the candidate begins to discover the special gift that they are. They begin to see their role as a member of the Christian community. Christ invites us to begin a **"lifelong habit"** of serving and loving one another. Because there are four areas of service we suggest that each student complete a minimum of 5 hours in each area (5 hours personal growth, 5 hours family service, 5 hours parish service and 5 hours of service to the larger community).

NO MONEY SHOULD BE RECEIVED FOR ANY SERVICES PREFORMED!!!! If money is refused but still received, please see that the money is donated to the church or another charity.

I have included in the candidate's packet 4 **SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION FORMS**. The candidates must complete one reflection form on personal growth, one reflection form on family service, one reflection form on parish service, and one form on the Larger Community.

The candidates should turn into me or their religion teacher the 4 forms plus an attached **reflection sheet** stating what **all** the service opportunities have taught them about their God, their faith, and their gifts and why they should be confirmed.

Some examples of Personal Growth Activities are taking part in at least one Youth Ministry event (check www.nflregion.org for a youth ministry calendar of events), going on a retreat (other than the confirmation retreat), making a commitment to read the Bible on a regular basis, choosing a good Catholic based book (maybe a book about your patron saint) and reading it, taking part in Eucharistic Adoration or making a commitment to pray for a certain person, event or organization over an extended period of time.

Some examples of Family Activities are doing chores above and beyond the normal assigned chores without being asked, helping elderly or disabled family members in a way that is above and beyond what you normally do, setting up a family prayer time and making sure the family follows the schedule (ie. Pray the rosary as a family every Sunday for 6 weeks).

Some examples of Parish Activities are serving at Mass, providing child care during Mass, volunteering at Vacation Bible School or the Turkey Festival or at any other Parish event.

Some examples of the Larger Community Activities are going to a food pantry or soup kitchen and donating your time. Organizing a fundraiser or food drive and giving all proceeds/collected items to a local charity. Making a trip to a local nursing home and visiting residents other than grandparents or family members that you would normally visit.

These are only suggestions/examples of what can be done. Please do not feel limited to what is listed above. Reading the Bible along with prayer is a great way to be inspired with service ideas.

Thank You and God Bless You,
Kate Boeke, CRE
(937)295-2179 kateb@nflregion.org

SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION FORM
(continue on the back of the form if more room is needed)

Date(s) of Project: _____ Place(s) of Service: _____

Description of Project:

I liked this experience because:

My feelings after this activity are:

Candidate's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION FORM

Date(s) of Project: _____ Place(s) of Service: _____

Description of Project:

I liked this experience because:

My feelings after this activity are:

Candidate's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION FORM
(continue on the back of the form if more room is needed)

Date(s) of Project: _____ Place(s) of Service: _____

Description of Project:

I liked this experience because:

My feelings after this activity are:

Candidate's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION FORM

Date(s) of Project: _____ Place(s) of Service: _____

Description of Project:

I liked this experience because:

My feelings after this activity are:

Candidate's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

SERVICE PERSONAL REFLECTION FORM

**What have all the service opportunities taught me
about God, my faith, my gifts and why I
should be confirmed.**