

St. John Paul II Evangelization Program **Stewardship**



What is stewardship?

The Church has always taught that every gift we have is from God: our time, our talent, and our treasure. As members of the Church, our response to God's blessing is to give back to Him by giving back to His Church. *"Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common"* (Acts 4: 32).

Why do Confirmation candidates need to perform stewardship hours?

Upon receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church and will have all the supernatural gifts that he/she needs to fully live out his/her mission for Christ and His Church. To help each child begin to discover what special gifts they may possess and how best to put those gifts into use by serving others, the Diocese of Metuchen requires that each candidate perform 20 service hours during the two-year preparation period; 10 hours in 7th grade and 10 hours in 8th grade.

How do I know what type of service can I perform for my stewardship hours?

Jesus told His disciples "to love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34). Scripture provides us with insight into what He means by this command:

"Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Mt 25:34-36).

These are examples of **Corporal Works of mercy**--taking care of others temporal needs.

Equally important are the **Spiritual Works of Mercy**: admonishing the sinner, instructing those who don't know the faith, counseling those who doubt in God's love, comforting the sorrowful, and praying for the living and the dead.

Serving other people is the primary essence of the Works of Mercy and Jesus is the model for each of us. Keep in mind that serving your family members is part of your responsibility as a family member. As a baptized member of Christ's Church each of us is called to "go out" to support the Church's mission and to make a selfless sacrifice for others.

What can I do to support my child during this experience?

Be a model for your child and participate in stewardship with them. Help your child to identify what gifts they have by telling them what traits or characteristics you see in them. This will be particularly helpful as your child discerns how it is that they can put their gifts to work to build the kingdom of God!

- Support their work as a group as an expression of how we work together as a parish family
- Encourage your child
- Pray that they will be open to the Holy Spirit

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Name

Grade

Date of service: _____ **Number of hours served.:** _____

What was the service project you chose? _____

Who did you serve and describe what you did to serve this person or group? _____

Which of your gifts and talents did you use to serve? _____

How did this service experience affect you? _____

How do you think your service affected the people you served? _____

Date of service: _____ **Number of hours served.:** _____

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Who did you serve and describe what you did to serve this person or group? _____

Which of your gifts and talents did you use to serve? _____

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How do you think your service affected the people you served? _____

Parent Signature