

## SERVICE GUIDELINES

“...as I have done, so you must do.”

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a sign that he was here to serve them and told them to do what he was doing if they were going to follow him. As you mature in your faith, you will discover increased responsibilities as a follower of Jesus Christ. It is not enough that you KNOW about your faith but know how to LIVE your faith. The question is: *How do you do what Jesus did? As Pope Francis said, “Help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us. This is what I do. And I do it with my heart.”*

There are many possibilities to serve as Jesus did. Discover how you can serve others now and throughout your life by being open to the power of the Holy Spirit who will help you decide what to do. Ask God to enable you to use the talents and abilities He has given you to help others. The guidelines below can be a place to start. You are expected to perform some type of service. We suggest you offer at least 20 hours of service but you are free to do more. More important than the amount of service is the quality of your service. Check out the **Christian Service Ministries at our parish website: [www.stthomasofvillanova.org](http://www.stthomasofvillanova.org). We have also included a list of these ministries and contact information to help you get started.** Once you begin serving, record your service on the *Service Record Sheet*. After you have experienced various types of service, complete the *Reflections about Service* section. **The Record and Reflections sheet are due by the Confirmation Interview about 2 months prior to the sacrament date.**

### Guidelines for Service (20 hour requirement)

Christian service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Jesus who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on your service and how it is helping you take on the mind and heart of Jesus, fulfilling the needs of others, and building up the kingdom of God.
- The giving of service should continue throughout your life.
- Review the suggestions below. Discuss your choices with your parents, your sponsor or your teacher. **Always inform your parents before offering service to someone.**

### Service Activities

- Compose letters or cards to be given to the sick or homebound in the parish.
- Review the list of parish organizations in the Church bulletin and inquire how you can help that organization or volunteer as a member if possible.
- Check out the Service Opportunities for STV Handout or visit our website [www.stthomasofvillanova.org](http://www.stthomasofvillanova.org).
- Offer to help before and after school and church activities
- Volunteer to keep the parish grounds and buildings clean and beautiful.
- Volunteer to assist teachers in the school: cleaning, organizing, tutoring.
- Brainstorm for more ideas with your family or friends.