

Christian Service Overview

Queen of Apostles Parish (2nd Year) Confirmation Preparation, 2024-2025

Candidates are expected to complete and document **at least 5 hours** of Christian service as part of their growth in discipleship this year. *(Because of changes to the practices of local charitable organizations during the pandemic, this is reduced from previous requirements for 10 hours.)*

Forms may be turned in earlier at any Confirmation Prep session, but they are due in Religion class on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Christian service fits into two categories:

- **Direct service** to those in need, based on the Corporal Works of Mercy (*feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, helping the homeless and the poor*)
- **Indirect service** to benefit the people of God or all of creation through the Church, schools and other community groups (*setting up for parish events, tutoring, office work, sorting, cleaning, caring for the environment or animals*)

Our Candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to do as much direct service as possible as part of those 5 hours. Direct service transforms us as we look upon the faces of our brothers and sisters in need. Ask: ***Who am I serving today?*** *“Each one of them is Jesus in disguise.” -- Saint (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta*

Group outings for performing service (such as to Cradles to Crayons, to Feed My Starving Children, or to local food pantries or soup kitchens) can be organized by catechists and/or by groups of parents.

In the past few years, students in this Confirmation Prep program did Christian service helping persons in need and in our broader community, **even during the pandemic**. Organizations they served through and types of service they performed include:

Alderman's Office - calling local senior citizens to check on their well-being • St. Andrew Life Center, Niles - making Valentine's Day cards for elderly residents • Asian Human Resources Passages - making & distributing food packages • Chicago's Help Initiative - making sack lunches for the homeless • Common Pantry - creative fundraiser • Emily Oaks Nature Center and our local forest preserves - picking up trash • Friendship Center Food Pantry - packing Thanksgiving foods for clients in need • Honeycomb Project (from home) - assembling bags of food for seniors • Irving Park Food Pantry - packing and distributing bags of food • Lurie Hospital and Rush Medical Center - making cards for first responders and nurses • Marillac St. Vincent - organizing a drive for winter gear for children served there • Northside Housing & Supportive Services - organized shoes for a shoe drive • St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen - distributing meals outdoors to homeless guests • People's Church Food Pantry - making sack lunches for the homeless • Project Linus (from home) - making no-sew fleece blankets for hospitalized children • Queen of Apostles Parish - decorating Queen of Angels Church for Christmas • Ravenswood Community Services - distributing food outdoors to homeless guests • Ronald McDonald House - making food or care packages for families with sick children • Salvation Army at Mayfair Community Church - helping at a Saturday music school • Salvation Army Meal Box Program - packing boxes of food for people in need • St. Theresa Loaves & Fishes Program - making sack lunches for the homeless • from home - making military care packages or cards for hospitalized kids • in neighborhood - mowing lawns, shoveling snow, or raking leaves for elderly neighbors

What kinds of service would you like to see this year?
Contact **312-857-6782** or **rhohner@qofachicago.org**.