

Christian Service Overview

Queen of Apostles Parish (2nd Year) Confirmation Preparation, 2025-2026

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 at Monday evening class on Monday, February 2, 2026. 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. 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.