



*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you clothed me,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.
Matthew 25:35-36*

The Matthew 25 Project is the service component of the Confirmation program. The project is inspired by the Works of Mercy as written in the Gospel of Matthew and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The project consists of two components: **Direct Service and Social Action.**

The goal is that each candidate will be able to clearly identify the differences between direct service and social action through their own experience. Each candidate will choose a substantial project in the area of Direct service and study about or participate in a form of Social Action. Each project will be documented on paper to be turned in by April 18, 2010.

Always remember that you are not alone in this project. We are here to help you! Feel free to contact us for ideas or suggestions:
Youth Ministry Office 262-284-2102 x 15 portyouth@catholic.org

Note: Yes! There are 2 papers due by April 18 with this project.

Part 1 is a reflection paper on Direct Service.

Part 2 is a paper on Social Action.

To help you stay on target we will check in with you from time to time:

January – By now you should have decided on your Direct Service Project and started on your volunteer service.

February – You will be asked to provide us with a topic for your Social Action paper/activity on February 14. You should begin your Social Action research now!

March – You should be writing your Direct Service reflection paper & Social Action paper this month.



Part I

Direct Service – Actions responding to the needs of individuals; deals with the effects of problems.

Example: If people are hungry...direct services include: taking up a monetary collection, opening an emergency food pantry, and feeding those who are hungry.

Some ideas for direct service projects: Food Pantry, Homeless shelters, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Tutoring Programs, Respect Life Organizations...Participate with the Parish Human Concerns Committee, Liturgical Ministries, Religious Education Programs...Help elderly neighbors or family members, baby-sit for free for a family in your neighborhood on a regular basis...for other ideas check the Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County

- Choose a project that is ongoing, where you volunteer on a regular basis
- Your direct service should be over and above regular family chores
- You should not get paid for your service
- Volunteer work that you do for a high school requirement **can** be included

Direct service reflection due April 18, 2010

Paper

1. Describe your project and the amount of time you volunteered.
2. What effect did your service have on the people you served?
3. Do you feel that this form of direct service is important? Why?
4. How is your service related to being a Catholic Christian...a disciple of Christ?
5. Do you plan to continue to provide direct service in the future? Why?

(Or)

Journal

Provide a written, photo, artistic, cyber or video journal of your direct service. Include entries for each time you volunteered. Reflect on the above questions and share your thoughts creatively.



Part II

Social Action – Actions responding to the behavior of institutions; deals with the causes of problems.

Example: If people are hungry...social actions include asking, “Why?” What needs to be changed in our society to make sure that all people have food to eat? Who are the people who are most likely to go hungry? What can be done to change the social structure (system) in our country to protect the people most “at risk”? When we provide direct service, do we appreciate the dignity of all people as children of God?

Social Action Reflection – Due April 18, 2010

(Papers you do for school are acceptable, but you may need to rework them to fit our requirements. We are giving you these topics now so they may fit into some of the work you are already doing for school this year.)

Option 1. Write a paper on a current issue: Consistent Life Ethic, Peace, Hunger, Environment, Racism, Women’s Issues, Children’s Issues, Elder Issues, Violence, Capital Punishment, Abortion, Euthanasia, Economic Issues, Poverty, Political Systems & Policies, Health, Education...

- Identify the problem; include background (historical information and/or current technologies)
- Articulate the Catholic Social Teaching on the issue you choose.
- Identify controversy, pros & cons, surrounding the issue.
- Who are some leaders who work on this area of social teaching? What do they say?
- What are some practical things people can do for social action in this area?
- Conclude with your own personal reflection on this issue: Why is it meaningful to you? What have you learned? What do you personally think about this issue? Do you plan to get involved? Why? Do you see any hope for change?

Option 2. Write a biographical paper on a person who dedicated her or his life to social action: Augustus Tolton, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, Cardinal Bernadine, Thea Bowman, Cesar Chavez, Oscar Romero, St. Katherine Drexel, Fr. Groppi, Catherine de Heuck Doherty, Mother Teresa, Sr. Helen Prejean, Jean Vanier...

- Conclude with your own personal reflection on the life of this person: Why did you choose the person? What have you learned? Where did he/she find meaning in life? Do you feel he/she made a difference in the world?



Option 3. Interview someone who is actively involved in social action: a teacher of yours, a parent, a community leader, etc...Include biographical information and the personal reflection from option 2.

Option 4. Write a letter to an elected official, a newspaper or community organization in regards to one of the above issues & provide us with a copy of the letter, date sent, and any response received.

Option 5. Attend a workshop on social justice, write a reflection paper on the experience and share what you learned. (See option 1 for outline.)

Option 6. Participate in a *legal* form of social action. Write a reflection paper after the experience and share what you learned. (See option 1 for outline.)

Websites:

General Catholic Sites:

The Vatican www.vatican.va

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops www.usccb.org

Archdiocese of Milwaukee www.archmil.org

Archdiocese of Washington (see Our Cultures) www.adw.org

U.S. Catholic www.uscatholic.org

St. Anthony Messenger www.americancatholic.org/messenger

National Catholic Reporter www.natcath.com

Catholic Information Network www.cin.org

Catholic News Service www.catholicnews.com

America www.americamagazine.org

Social Action Sites

Catholic Charities www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Catholic Relief Services www.crs.org

Catholic Campaign for Human Development www.usccb.org/cchd/

Sojourners www.sojo.net

The Catholic Worker Movement (Dorothy Day) www.catholicworker.org

Nonviolence webring www.nonviolence.org

L'Arche (Jean Vanier) www.larchecanada.org

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office for Social Justice www.osjspm.org

Center of Concern www.Coc.org