

# CONFIRMATION (PROJECTS) EXPERIENCES

**OVERVIEW:** When we put our Catholic faith in action, we demonstrate our commitment to follow Jesus through a Catholic way of life. Such experiences are based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Jesus who came to serve.

When giving your time and talent to others, keep the following points in mind:

- Your actions are not just jobs to be done: they are to selflessly and lovingly help those in need.
- Reflect on how your actions are helping you to take on the mind and heart of Christ to fulfill the needs of others and to build up the Christian community.
- Giving of your time and talent continues after your Confirmation and throughout your life.

To prepare yourself for Confirmation, you are to arrange and participate in **14 different** Catholic action experiences. (Example: babysitting at home and babysitting for the Church are NOT different experiences.) The 14 experiences are broken down into categories:

- Family (four experiences)
- School/other (four experiences)
- Parish (three experiences)
- Community (three experiences)

You are required to write reflection papers detailing each of your experiences. A reflection paper outline is attached in this package and can be photocopied or downloaded from [www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html](http://www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html).

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THINGS TO DO FOR OUR PARISH**

### **(Three experiences)**

- With a parish partner, participate in Sunday Masses as a Minister of Hospitality, usher, choir member or lector. (Contact the coordinator of these ministries which is listed in the Sunday bulletin or church directory to volunteer.)
- Offer to assist as a Minister of the Homebound, or a Sunday School helper. (Contact the coordinator of these ministries which is listed in the Sunday bulletin or church directory to volunteer.)
- Participate in Middle School youth Ministry functions
- Help decorate or clean the church. (Contact the coordinator of these ministries which is listed in the Sunday bulletin or church directory to volunteer.)
- Assist with Parish activities or fundraisers (volunteer your time for parish picnics or other special events: Wurstmart, Spring Gala, Trivia nights, Sunday family celebrations.
- Organize a clean-up crew and collect trash around parish buildings
- Weed the gardens around the church property
- Assist with Vacation Bible School in the summer
- Babysit during parish events
- Help setup for the Mary & Martha Rummage sale
- Attend one parish Penance service during Advent or Lent
- Attend a special Liturgy during Holy week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday & the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
- Attend the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening
- Join the contemporary youth music group or bell choir

**In what other ways could you help a parishioner or your entire parish?**

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THINGS TO DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

**(Three experiences)**

- Help Shut-ins or elderly parishioners by shopping, cleaning or yard work. (Susan Martin coordinates the homebound visits.)
- Make Thanksgiving cards for the Diocesan Thanksgiving Dinner
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen, diocesan Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Day Dinner
- Volunteer to mow the lawn, clean rake leaves or shovel snow for neighbors. Make sure you let them know what your plans and that you want no compensation.
- Send birthday cards to our parish elderly or get well cards to those on the parish prayer list.
- Visit a nursing home or hospital. Ask to see those who do not get regular visitors.
- Volunteer at the Loving Touch Pregnancy Care Center or organize a baby shower for Loving Touch with your friends & family
- Volunteer at the library, animal hospital or the Monroe County Humane Society
- Organize a food drive or help at the Hope Food Pantry or the Western Egyptian Food Pantry
- Write Pro-Life letters to political leaders.
- Participate in the Relay for Life or the Loving Touch Pregnancy Center Walk for Life (both held in September)
- Attend World Youth Day at the Shrine in September
- Attend Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C.
- Bake cookies for the Diocesan Christmas Dinner

**In what other ways could you help others in your neighborhood, community or world?**

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THINGS TO DO FOR OUR SCHOOL**

### **(Four experiences)**

- Assist teachers with taking down or putting up decorations, organizing books or supplies, or wherever the teacher needs assistance
- Offer to help in your school office
- Organize or participate in a school beautification project
- Be a teacher's aid or tutor another student during recess on a daily basis
- Be a secret pal to a lonely or younger student
- Be a prayer partner for a lonely or younger student
- Make cards throughout the year for the second graders who will be receiving their First Eucharist
- Assist with Sunday School

**In what other ways could you help another student or your entire school?**

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THINGS TO DO FOR YOUR FAMILY**

### **(Four experiences)**

- Voluntarily do another family member's chores for a week
- Tutor your brother or sister or other relative
- Do the family's laundry for a week
- Perform extra chores without pay and without being asked (vacuuming, making beds, raking leaves, shoveling snow, making dinner)
- Give your parents a night off by volunteering to baby-sit a younger sibling
- Organize a family picnic or outing never done before (Example: Make arrangements to visit the Science Center. Call to check hours, set a date and time to go, know how much it's going to cost, how to get there, parking information, etc.)
- Visit or call relatives that you haven't talked with recently.
- Lead family meal prayers for a week.
- Write a cheerful note to your parents each night and tape it to their bathroom mirror to start their day off right. (Do this for one week.)

**In what other ways could you help a family member or your entire family?**