



OLGC Community Service Reflection

*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me
~ (Mt 25:40) ~*

Name: _____

Instructions & Information:

- **You may handwrite or type.** If I am unable to read your writing, I will ask that you type the form and resubmit. If typed, please staple it to this sheet. And, please make a copy of your reflection before submitting it.
- **Who will read the reflections?** They will be reviewed by Jamie De Marco, Confirmation Coordinator, and/or Amy Wyss, DRE. Some reflections or details of service may be shared in the church bulletin and/or social media—we will contact you for permission.
- **Please return to Jamie De Marco by doing one of the following:**
 - **Email:** demarcoj@olgcparish.net
 - **Mail:** Religious Formation Office, Attn. Jamie De Marco, 1160 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI, 48170
 - **Due Date:** Turn in when service is completed or no later than April 15, 2024. Please note that this service needs to be completed **before** your Confirmation Interview takes place.

Where do you receive your religious education? (Circle one):

OLGC School

Other Catholic School

EDGE

Homeschool

Teacher or Catechist Name: _____

Describe your community service: Include if you performed service on your own or with a class, family, or friend. Use another page if you need more space

((Over))

Answer the following:

- What spiritual and/or corporal work of mercy did your service address?

- What was the most rewarding/blessed part of your community service?

- What was the most challenging part of your service?

- What lesson(s) did you learn or insight did you gain from your service?

**FINALLY... If able, please include any pictures of you performing your service.
No group pictures (other than family), please.**

OLGC Confirmation Program: Community Service

Before you begin, please pray.....

Pray that God will lead you to the service project He wants you to do, not necessarily the one that is easiest. Then, pray for those whom you will be serving.

“If you want to pray better, you must pray more. Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God’s gift of Himself.”

~~ Mother Teresa~~

Guidelines & Requirements

- **Complete a community service reflection:** Reflections can be turned in at any time during the year, but **no later than Monday, April 15th.**
 - **OLGC School:** You may return them through the school office. Please put them in an envelope with the following address: Religious Formation Office, Attn: Jamie De Marco.
- **The reflection is as important as the service performed.** All service that fits within guidelines and speaks to your heart is fair game. When wondering what service to perform, ask yourself if you can reflect on it in a meaningful, heartfelt way.
- **Hours & Proof.** There is no requirement of number of hours and you do not need a signature as proof of service performed. You will be trusted to perform meaningful, substantial service that speaks to your heart.
- **The Religious Formation Office (RFO) does not support/endorse any service project that requires a student to miss a normal school day.**
- **The service you perform must take you out into the world:** Services performed for a family member and services for which you are paid **are not** considered community service.
- **Community service you already do with family, class, club, scouts, etc...** can be used toward your Confirmation community service. The difference is you will be thinking about it in the context of Confirmation and the spiritual/corporal works of mercy.
- To the best of your ability, **find contact information for a particular organization yourself and call them directly.** Part of community service is doing the “footwork”. Go to www.olgcparish.net/serve for potential service opportunities and contact information.
- **DO NOT show up unannounced or uninformed:** Before planning community service, make every effort to educate yourself about the event and/or organization. If you are unfamiliar, contact the coordinator and/or research what is entailed in the service, the amount of service needed, and any possible restrictions that would keep you from performing the service (age, time, kind of work.) **NOTE: THIS INCLUDES OLGC SPONSORED EVENTS AND GROUPS.**
- **Serving the Church (Altar Server, Choir, Usher, Greeter):** May be used as your service only if you are already trained and active in these ministries.
- **Service involving animals:** Service can involve animals only if the purpose of the project is to help a person. Examples: taking care of a pet for someone who is unable to do so themselves (elderly, handicapped, sick); taking a pet to a nursing home, hospital...; caring for a dog used in therapy for the handicapped; involvement horses used in therapy, etc.

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Below are listed the works of mercy along with suggestions for types of service that can be done for each.

Corporal Works of Mercy

- **Feed the Hungry:** Serve at a soup kitchen; work with the PB&J ministry here at OLGC; help w/ Meals on Wheels; pack and distribute food at a local food bank; earn money to donate to charities; organize a food drive and donate it to a shelter or food bank (Salvation Army); With your parent, shop for someone who is unable to drive or leave the home
- **Give Drink to the Thirsty:** Same examples as above as well as raise money to build wells for those in need, organize a bottle water drive and deliver it to a shelter.
- **Clothe the Naked:** Organize a clothing drive; help with the parish Advent giving tree; sort clothes at St. Vincent De Paul or Salvation Army; offer to go to the cleaners, do laundry or mending for a needy neighbor or at a home for the elderly.
- **Shelter the Homeless:** Earn money to donate to Habitat for Humanity or Catholic charities; contribute to poverty or disaster-relief agencies; volunteer at an agency that repairs, cleans, brightens homes for people who can't; assist a senior citizen with a home project (painting, cleaning, shoveling, etc...); package up and deliver personal hygiene items for the homeless; knit/sew a blanket for the homeless
- **Visit the Sick:** Volunteer at a nursing home; volunteer at a local hospital or hospice; help someone you know who is sick/elderly by doing housework, babysitting, etc...; organize a group of people to make and deliver Christmas cards (or Easter, or Valentines) to a hospital or nursing home.
- **Visit the Imprisoned:** Donate books and toys to organizations that help the children of prisoners; contact a local prison chaplain for ideas on how to reach out anonymously to prisoners; put together gift baskets for families of prisoners; help those who can't leave their homes or the hospital.
- **Bury the Dead:** Provide service to families who have lost a loved one (cook, clean, shop, babysit, etc...); help to clean up/care for a local cemetery and pray for the dead; volunteer your services to OLGC's Bereavement ministry.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- **Supporting the Sinner on the road to conversion:** Reach out to the OLGC Hospitality Team to support their work; write a bulletin article about sin and conversion perhaps including a time that you grew deeper in faith, etc. (contact Jamie De Marco for permission); create/help with a school program that addresses a sin (Substance abuse, bullying, Etc.); with an adult, organize a group to pray outside an abortion clinic; serve during the Mass as an altar server, singer/musician, greeter, usher.
- **Instruct the Ignorant:** Commit to learning more about your faith and share your new knowledge at school or online; Volunteer at OLGC child care and teach the faith to the attendees; Assist a CYO coach and teach a sport and the faith; with your family, participate in the March for Life in Washington D.C. and make signs to explain the Catholic view of life; write a bulletin article that informs parish youth about the teachings of the Catholic Church (contact Jamie De Marco for permission).
- **Counsel the Doubtful:** Help new school students or neighbors by welcoming them, inviting and attending a faith program with them; contact the OLGC School Welcoming Committee to see if you can help with some of their events; Invite and attend Mass/faith event with someone who is struggling to believe
- **Comfort the Sorrowful:** Create and send cards to students or families who have suffered a loss or who are going through a hard time; contact the OLGC bereavement committee to see if they need help with any events. Visiting nursing home, shut-ins, elderly.
- **Forgive Injuries:** Get involved in a peer conflict resolution team program at your school or talk to the school or your teacher about organizing one; with a parent, volunteer your time at a women's shelter or Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Center; put together a poster campaign or classroom project promoting forgiveness.
- **Pray for the Living and the Dead:** With a parent, pray at a local abortion clinic; form a group that will join to pray a rosary regularly (once a week or month) for a certain cause; Visit a local cemetery and pray for the dead for a duration of time (i.e. 3 visits in November, over 3 months, etc.). Note: Plenary indulgence possible from November 1-8.