

Our Lady of Sorrows School

**SERVICE JOURNAL
2018 - 2019**



NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

HOMEROOM TEACHER: _____

*I then heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Whom shall I
send? Who will go for us?"*

And I said, "Here I am, send me."

Isaiah 6:8

SERVICE LETTER



OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL CAMPUS MINISTRY

August 2018

Dear Middle School Parents & Students:

Following in the honorable tradition of Catholic-Christian service, OLSS will continue implementing a program of mandatory service for Middle School students this year.

Each middle school student is challenged and required to perform five (5) hours of service every quarter. These hours are part of the graduation requirement for OLS 8th graders, and part of the passing requirements for 6th & 7th graders. Students are required to track their hours and turn them in at the end of each quarter to their religion teacher; they are worth two (2) test grades. Students are also required to turn in a reflection essay (half a page for 6th grade, at least one page for 7th & 8th grade) worth two (2) homework grades.

For the most part, this commitment is not completed as a class project or as a school function. Rather, the service hours are completed after school, on weekends or during school breaks. ***Ideally, this is a time for the whole family to spend some time in service to the Church, to the School or to the wider community.***

Our desire is not to burden our students with many hours of extra activities. In the span of each quarter there are nine weeks – sufficient time to complete five hours of service work out of the 1,512 hours allotted for each quarter. (less than 1% of the quarter).

As students who are on the verge of entering young adulthood, it is our fervent hope that they will be more fully formed as practicing Catholic-Christians. This program of service is an attempt to help instill in them the joy and the challenge of Christian service.

Our US Bishops wrote, *“The most urgent ecclesial task of our times is the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. A vital element of this new evangelization is sharing our Catholic social tradition with all Catholics so clearly that they may be engaged and challenged, encouraged and empowered to live their faith everyday. The test for our Church is not simply have we “kept the faith,” but have we shared the faith.”*

If you would like more information, or if you would like to discuss possibilities for service, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at your convenience.

Blessings & Peace,
Mr. Hugo De La Rosa
Assistant Principal

WHY DO SERVICE?

Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 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 gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me . . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. – **Jesus, Matthew 25:34–36, 40**

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. – **Jesus, Luke 9:23**

I am among you as one who serves. – **Jesus, Luke 22:27**

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. – **Jesus, John 13:12–15**

You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. This then is what I command you: love [serve] one another. – **Jesus, John 15:12–13**

As the Father has sent me, so I send you. – **Jesus, John 20:21**

People should think of us as Christ’s servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. – **St. Paul, 1 Corinthians 4:1**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what good is that? So faith, by itself, if it has no works, is dead. – **James 2:14–17**

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. – **Albert Einstein**

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. – **Anne Frank**

Everybody can be great . . . Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree. You only need a heart full of grace. – **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results. –
Herman Melville



WHAT CAN I DO?

We encourage students to concentrate on three areas for their service: school, church and community. *Since each member of any family should already be contributing with their time, talent and treasure we do not accept household work or chores as viable hours. Children helping out at home, at a parent's business, at their grandparents home—this is part and parcel of being in a family. We are also not accepting tabs, bottle caps or BoxTops for service.* Accordingly, here are some ideas for service:

School

Make prayer cards to send to sick students in your class
Make rosaries and donate them to your class or the school
Put together care packages to send to our OLS graduates in High School or College
Check with individual teachers for projects they may sponsor throughout the year

Church

Collect and deliver needed items to your Church (clothing, food, toys, blankets, etc.)
Serve as an usher, choir member, CCD assistant, lector, altar server, etc.
Volunteer at the Star of Hope Center (686-0251 for more info) on the weekends
Contact the Church office for any needs they may have that you can provide (686-0251 for OLS)
Assist the parish Religious Ed/CCD program

Community

Clean out closets and bedrooms for clothes, toys, etc. and deliver them to a local charity
Put together care packages for our overseas armed forces and mail them out
Collect and deliver needed items to local charities
Collect, sort, sack and deliver food baskets
Hold a garage sale (do it as a group!) and donate all the money raised to a local charity
Prepare and/or serve lunch to the homeless (connect with Emily's Meals in our parish!)
Send cards/letters/care packages to people in jail
Volunteer at the RGV Food Bank (682-8101 for more info)
Volunteer at an infant and/or maternity home
Spend time praying in front of the Whole Woman's Health clinic in McAllen on Saturdays

US Bishops' Web Site

Our US Bishops have ideas online as well; you can visit each link to find ideas for service tied into the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Corporal Works of Mercy: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy.cfm>

Spiritual Works of Mercy: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-spiritual-works-of-mercy.cfm>

Web Resources:

ServeNet: <http://www.servenet.org>

Volunteer Match: <http://www.volunteermatch.org>

KidActivities: <http://www.kidactivities.net/category/community-service-middle-high-school.aspx>

SchoolFamily: <http://www.schoolfamily.com/school-family-articles/article/10863-5-meaningful-community-service-ideas-for-students>

You can check with the Religious Education or Youth Ministry programs in your parish / church to see if they have service opportunities available. If you need more help or ideas, please feel free to talk to your religion teacher at your convenience.



WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES?

Each student must complete five (5) hours of service by the end of each quarter. Service done during breaks / holidays is acceptable (though please note there are no roll-over hours from quarter to quarter). **7th & 8th grade must have at least (two) forms of service.**

Your service record will be verified at the end of each quarter. Please remember that this is a requirement; you are being graded on your service record.

On the following pages, you will find a place to record your service hours, a place to get a signature from the person/place you served, and a place to reflect on your service.

Here's a sample:

Date	Person / Place / Event	Hours	Signature & Phone Number
1/22	Habitat for Humanity - helped build house	2	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith 956.555.5555
2/08	Mowed Neighbor's Lawn	2	Mr. Javier Gonzalez 956.555.0000
3/03	Volunteered to help kids read at the library	1	Ms. Brenda Garcia 956.555.0505
TOTAL HOURS		5	

Your parents can always sign for any service you do. Please ask your religion teacher if you have any questions about how to fill out the form.

WHAT ABOUT THE ESSAY?

Once you have completed each quarter of service work, you will need to write a one page essay reflecting on your service opportunities for that quarter. The essays are **due on or around the following dates: October 10th, January 7th, March 19th, and May 21st** (*please check with your religion teacher for the exact date, especially 8th grade for 4th Quarter*).

The following prompts will help you write the essay:

1. Summarize your service work for the quarter
2. Write about one or two of the people you worked with, met, or helped in some way.
3. Write about your attitude towards having to engage in service work.
4. Write about at least one good thing that happened or that you learned about yourself or about service.
5. Write about at least one negative thing that happened to you or one personal weakness you discovered as you engaged in service work.
6. Describe at least one way you experienced God's presence through your work or the people you served.



SERVICE RECORD - 1ST QUARTER

Date	Person / Place / Event	Hours	Signature & Phone Number
TOTAL HOURS			

SERVICE RECORD - 2ND QUARTER

Date	Person / Place / Event	Hours	Signature & Phone Number
TOTAL HOURS			

**SERVICE RECORD - 3RD
QUARTER**

Date	Person / Place / Event	Hours	Signature & Phone Number
TOTAL HOURS			

SERVICE RECORD - 4TH QUARTER

Date	Person / Place / Event	Hours	Signature & Phone Number
TOTAL HOURS			