



Works of Mercy

St. Pius X Apostolic Service Program

Your Questions Answered

As essential part of our mission as a Catholic School is our commitment to service. For many years “service hours” have been a requirement of the St. Pius program. However, recently we have observed the need to reflect on the true definition of Christian Service and the effectiveness of our former program.

The goal was to develop an Apostolic Service Program that doesn’t regard service as a requirement to met and checked off, but as an integral and fundamental part of the St. Pius experience that contributes to our human and Catholic formation. The result is a new program entitled “Works of Mercy”. This new Apostolic Service program, based on the Catholic Church’s teaching of the Works of Mercy, will help our students to develop life long attitudes and habits that reflect the Gospel Message that we are to serve as Christ served.

Early in the summer, all St. Pius families should have received a mailing that outlined the philosophy and requirements of the new program. As we embark on this new program, we understand that you still may have questions. Here we have tried to answer some of the commonly asked questions regarding the new program to help you and your student. This information is also available online at www.spx.org/ministry.

What is Apostolic Service?

The word apostolic immediately calls to mind the faith element of Christian service. The word “apostolic” means to be sent. Christ sent His Apostles to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,” (Mt 28:16). By our Baptism we too are sent on the same mission to proclaim the Gospel and build up the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth through our lives and our works. Faith in Christ compels us to be apostolic and serve the rest of redeemed humanity for His sake. Therefore, at St. Pius we commit ourselves to a Catholic Apostolic Service Program.

Where can I find information and Confirmation sheets for the new Apostolic Service Program?

All of the information and forms for the new Apostolic Service Program are available on the St. Pius website. Simply log on to www.spx.org/ministry and click on “Works of Mercy”. If you still have questions after going to the website, please contact Gayle Ohrenberger in Campus Ministry by email at gohrenberger@spx.org

What is the last day to turn in Apostolic Service Confirmation sheets?

Apostolic Service Confirmation sheets will not be accepted after April 15, 2007. We encourage students to responsibly plan ahead and not leave their Apostolic Service requirement until the last minute.

How can we check on the status of our student’s requirements?

Completed Project totals will be published before Christmas break and at the beginning of March. We are currently working to make project totals available online.

Our student has already completed or wants to participate in a project that is not listed on the Works of Mercy List.

What should we do?

The Works of Mercy List is by no means exhaustive. We are always looking to add projects to the list. If you know of a project that you think would fit into one the Works of Mercy categories please contact Campus Ministry with the necessary information (name of organization, contact information, description of service to be completed, etc) so that it can be reviewed for approval.

Students should always seek pre-approval from Miss Ohrenberger for Works of Mercy Projects that are not on the list. However, if the student has already completed a project that is not on the list, they first should ask themselves, “Does this project fit in one of the Works of Mercy categories?” If the answer is yes, they need to see Miss Ohrenberger as soon as possible for approval.

Our student completed service over the summer. Will it still count towards their new requirement?

Yes, service completed over the summer will counted towards the new requirements. If students completed service over the summer and are unsure as to how to convert their hours into projects, they must speak with Miss Ohrenberger during the first 2 weeks of school.

Why do the requirements say that each project should be “no less than 2 hours in length”? It sounds like you are still counting hours.

“Two hours” was established as a guideline for students to choose projects that require a reasonable amount of time to elicit reflection while not being burdensome. We understand that some projects might be longer or shorter than the 2 hours guideline. We do not discourage students from participating in these projects. However, we do ask that the students use their best discretion and try to choose projects that are at least 1-2 hours in length.