

### **Multiple Setting Service Ideas**

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*

Jn 15, 12; Mt 5, 42; Mt 5, 16.

There are many scenarios where our young people can learn the practice of service. We are often limited only by our imaginations. Below you will find a series of possibilities and ideas. These are not intended to be absolute. On the contrary, they are intended to spark your imagination and that of your class.

Before you plan: ask the teens where do they see people need help. Then ask them: If you could help them, what would you do?

**Service Projects:** Candidates who are 12 years old are very different from 14- or 15-year-olds in selecting.

a project. Some community projects require certain ages and adult supervision.

We want to encourage **integrated memorable projects when possible**. The usual “collect and give” is fine but adds creativity and personal insight with family or sponsors when possible. Reflect and share ideas with the class, parents, sponsor, or grandparents.

Family works of mercy for a relative who you think needs attention including a card, letter, visit, gift, phone call, in short personal attention or help. Often there are people that our own family thinks of but never gets around to sharing with personally. Sometimes a neighbor fits this category.

### **HOME BASED PROJECTS:**

~ Letter Writing: With the help of parents or sponsor write cards for parish homebound, overseas military, folks in a halfway house, maternity home, women's center or thank you cards to volunteers at a local agency.

~Charity Drives: Provide essential goods like socks, blankets, diapers, food, formula etc. but raise awareness by making the drive public beyond your group.

### **PARISH BASED PROJECTS:**

~ Parish Clean up: Work with cleaners to polish, vacuum and wipe down the church or rake and clean the grounds. Check the vestments and organize the sacristy.

~ Parish renovation: Sponsors and candidates clean and paint a room or weed and plant a section of the yard that is an eyesore.

~ Families take on a project for a parish festival or other big event.

~ Class Projects: Organize and host an event to help another class (first communion class, fifth grade camping trip etc)... car wash, bake sales, rummage sale etc.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS:**

~ Human Dignity: Assist at local pregnancy centers or shelters by raising funds, collecting diapers, collecting specific clothes and shoes (like for job interviews). Toiletries like soap, deodorant, lipstick, and nail clippers.

**Communio and Common Good:**

~ Sponsor a drive for the home missions for books and supplies. Look up Catholic Home Missions...

~ Gather and share books or toys for a group in your local area.

**Poor and the Vulnerable:**

~ Partner with St. Vincent de Paul or other local agencies who may have specific requests and needs that usually do not get addressed in typical support drives.

**Global Solidarity:**

~ If doing a fundraiser sell Fair Trade Coffee/ Tea etc. or other items and give out catalogs to your audience to raise awareness.

**Stewardship of Creation:**

~ Adopt a local park to clean and spruce up.

~ Parish or school grounds that may have a neglected area that can be cleaned and set up for future maintenance.

~ A neighbor may have a yard that has gone downhill so two families could trim and clean it up.

~ Some animal shelters may want older volunteers to help.