

Sharing in Jesus' Mission

What does sharing in Jesus' mission mean for young men and women today? The gospels show us over and over that much of Jesus' mission was "service," especially to the poor and the outcasts.

When considering services projects as part of your preparation for confirmation, first think about the following:

What kind of personality do you have? Are you a good organizer who likes to get involved with lots of different kinds of people? Or are you a person who prefers to work one-on-one or in very small groups?

Consider service projects that you will want to continue after you have received the sacrament of confirmation. Remember, confirmation requires that we become more fully immersed in the life of the Church. We must change our hearts and become young men and women who lead lives of service – not when it is convenient, but rather when it is needed.

The following are suggestions to help you make a decision:

<i>In Your Homes and Neighborhoods</i>	<i>In Your City or Town</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare dinner for your family or for a family going through difficult times one day a week ➤ Offer to take care of the younger children in your family so your parents can have a night out ➤ Take special interest in an elderly person in your neighborhood and help him or her keep up the property by doing jobs that have become too difficult to handle ➤ Organize young children in your neighborhood into a "club" that will meet an hour or two each week to do educational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volunteer at a hospital or nursing home and attempt to develop relationships with patients/residents who have few visitors ➤ Involve yourself in local food drives, clothing/toy drives, or work projects that benefit the poor of your community ➤ Volunteer to assist with coaching after-school programs that benefit children with special needs ➤ Tutor younger students who are struggling with one or more subjects
<i>In the Nation and the World</i>	<i>In Your Church</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Educate yourself about current social justice issues. Become informed and involved in organizations that promote peace and justice ➤ Promote the idea that we are stewards of the earth and support organizations that strive to protect our environment. Make an effort to become less wasteful and recycle everything that can possibly be reused ➤ Develop a relationship with someone who can expand your point of view or perhaps open your eyes to a whole new world, such as a person of your age who lives in another country, a prison inmate, or a missionary working far from home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Become involved in a ministry in your church by working on your skills as a reader, music minister, or minister of hospitality. These are wonderful ways to become truly involved in the life of your parish ➤ Promote and become actively involved in a parish youth group ➤ Become involved in those organizations within your parish that serve the poor ➤ Become involved in your parish's Development and Peace group, or begin a youth group of your own