

100+ Service Ideas for Religious Education

The following service ideas were submitted by participants in Joe Paprocki's Webinar, "Teaching During a Year of Faith" on Tuesday, August 28, 2012. As always, incorporate reflection before and after service experiences to help young people recognize how they are encountering the presence of Jesus in those they serve.

- Food drive for local food pantry
- Clothing drive
- Collect items needed for St Vincent de Paul society
- Soup kitchen experience
- Collecting supplies for Arbor House - unwed mother and child home
- Landscaping day with Habitat for Humanity
- Operation Rice Bowl: Catholic Relief Services
- My first graders make sandwiches for the church soup kitchen
- Project Gabriel - we collect new baby items for a pregnancy assistance center
- Assist with yearly senior luncheon
- Bring in school supplies for children who cannot afford them
- Yard cleaning for elderly neighbors of church
- Playing bingo at a local nursing home
- Serve at parish Lenten fish fry
- Pennies for patients
- Project Linus - making blankets (no sew ones)!
- Care packages for college students before finals
- Township clean-up
- Pen pal with sister parish in Ghana
- Volunteer at local homeless shelter
- Work at the parish fish fries as bus boy/girls
- Volunteer at PADS
- Making rosaries
- Thanksgiving food baskets
- Christmas gift giving
- Prison ministry cards



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- Valentines for veterans
- Learn to knit to make scarves for children this winter
- Caring tree
- Bake sales
- Serving the homeless at urban ministries
- Collection for local animal shelter
- Lunch bags for the homeless
- Gift wrapping with family service
- Mission collections every week
- Vacation bible camp
- Crop walk
- Trick or treat for Unicef
- Backpack drive
- Compassion packs to keep in the car and give to homeless people on the side of the road
- Soles for Souls
- Serve turkey dinners
- Partner with a school in Africa and send them supplies
- Contribute to a local shelter for unwed mothers
- Pro life activities - baby bottles filled with coins food pantry cereal mission activity
- Peer tutoring
- Hospital visitation
- We take 4th graders to St Joseph's diner to help serve food to the poor
- Making fleece blankets for the rural local hospital to give to children who have surgery
- Older students read to the younger students
- Write to service men and women who are serving our country
- Pop tabs from soda cans go to Ronald McDonald house They recycle them for \$\$
- Help with our Reconciliation reception, Confirmation reception
- Babysit during catechist meetings
- House homeless families
- Arrange flowers in church

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- Peanut butter and jelly gang They make sandwiches for the homeless
- Provide free babysitting for our young parents to have "date nights"
- Help out at parish farmers market
- Help with Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts
- Help with parish fall festival
- Help run a water stop at a marathon
- We visit a local nursing home do crafts with the residents and bring cookies to share with them
- Collect toiletries
- Bring food items to make trail mix and bag up trail mix for homeless shelter
- Confirmation students tutor our first communion students
- Senior citizen picnic each summer
- Help residents attend bi-monthly mass at home for the elderly
- Help with Seniors' tea
- Learn how to finger knit, sell their pieces and use the money to buy items of food for the poor
- We have a sharing parish and try to respond to their needs Also various food drives etc
- Make posters of support for inmates during the kairos retreat
- Collecting socks for homeless
- Cookies for hospice
- We support teachers and children in Haiti with a parish we are twinned
- Cards for the sick
- We have the kids do an individual service project and a classroom service project which is decided by the class
- During Christmas we visit a poor family to clean and decorate with Christmas tree etc
- Flower sale doughnut sale and cleaning up our neighborhood
- Blanket Sunday
- Lent heifer project
- Baby shower for Mary (items go to Seton Home for pregnant girls)
- Our parish has a 3 mile walk for United Ministries
- We will give a breakfast on 11/11 (Veterans' Day) for local veterans
- Pius Promise - help single mothers with their children while they go to school



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- Snack bags for battered women's services
- Help in church clean up
- Adopt orphan from orphanage in Haiti
- Make tray favors for local hospital
- package dried meals to be sent to help feed the hungry in Haiti and all over the world
- Write to the Franciscan sisters who are homebound
- Older students work as classroom aides
- Good Friday food fast for hunger for junior high students
- Collection for Mission Childhood Association
- Bring in recycling items to convert into money for our missions
- Prayer partners with elderly
- We go into the nursing and assisted living homes and have manicure days! The ladies love this!
- Not for Sale (stop human trafficking)
- Making cards and placemats for prisoners
- Working with kids with cancer
- Walk for life
- Letters to seminarians
- Volunteering at a blind retreat
- Baby shower for pregnancy center
- Summer service trips for teens to help poor/elderly with home repairs etc
- Missions (Propagation of the Faith)
- Sewing pillow cases for children with cancer
- Decorating pumpkins for residents in the nursing home
- Christmas caroling for shut-ins
- Hosting an appreciation for the religious in the area
- Become pen pals with the religious