

Questions for Reflection/Discussion after the Service Experience

1. Which of the Works of Mercy or Catholic Social Teachings listed on pg. 2 are related to the service you did today? Describe.

2. What virtues, gifts, or qualities did you need to call on today to serve well? Describe.

3. What story from Scripture or from the life of a saint sheds light on or is related to your experience of service today? Describe

4. What did you learn from today's experience? How will today's experience help you to follow Christ more closely?

CK SERVING OTHERS ***2nd ANNUAL SERVICE DAY*** ***Saturday, October 17, 2015***

St. Martin de Porres House of Hope ♦ Franciscan Outreach ♦ Beacon Therapeutic School ♦ CK Church & School



Why do we do service?

People do service for a number of reasons: to pay it forward, to feel good about themselves, out of a sense of compassion for others, because of a personal tie to a cause, and so on. These are all good. Followers of Jesus, however, serve others to make the Kingdom of God visible to those on the brink of despair. We do service to bring hope to others. We do service to bring glory to God. We do service to encounter Jesus. We do not perform good works in order to please or assuage God. We do not do good works in order to earn grace or salvation. We do good works because God is love and we yearn to live in God. By sharing love with others, we encounter the living God.

What guides and inspires our service?

Followers of Jesus serve in many ways. Our service is often organized around the following:

- **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy:** The Corporal Works of Mercy are inspired by the Parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25). These works are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their everyday material and physical needs. The Church also identifies works of mercy that tend to the emotional and spiritual needs of people. These are called the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feeding The Hungry
Sheltering The Homeless
Clothing The Naked
Visiting the Sick
Visiting the Imprisoned
Giving Alms To the Poor
Burying The Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instructing
Advising
Consoling
Comforting
Forgiving
Forgiving
Bearing Wrongs Patiently

- **Catholic Social Teaching:** The Catholic Church has a long tradition of applying the gospel to various situations in society in order that society may be transformed. We call this tradition Catholic social teaching. Here is an overview of the principles of Catholic social teaching.

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**—Because all human life is sacred, we are called to respect and value people over material goods and to ask whether our actions respect or threaten the life and dignity of the human person.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**—Our faith and our society rely upon healthy families and healthy communities. Because the family is the central social institution of our society, it must be supported and strengthened.
- **Rights and Responsibilities**—Not only does every person have a right to life, but also a right to those things needed for human decency. We are called to protect these basic human rights in order to build a healthy society.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**—It is a simple fact that, in our world, many people are very rich while, at the same time, many are extremely poor. We are called to make a specific effort to ensure that those who are poor and vulnerable are able to meet their immediate material needs.
- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**—Workers have basic rights that must be respected. These include: the right to productive work, to fair wages, to private property, to organize and join unions, and to pursue economic opportunity. Our Catholic faith teaches us that people do not serve the economy, but rather, the economy is meant to serve people.
- **Solidarity**—Because God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters with the responsibility to care for one another. Solidarity is the attitude that leads Christians to share spiritual and material goods and to recognize our interdependence.
- **Care for God's Creation**—God is the creator of all people and all things and he wants us to enjoy his creation. We are called to make good choices – moral and ethical - that protect the ecological balance of all of God's creation.

PRAYER BEFORE BEGINNING THE SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Leader: We begin our Service Day by asking God for the grace to serve others. In the name (+) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **AMEN**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: **WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH**

Leader: A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’”

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD

Leader: Let us pray in silence for the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us throughout this service day. (pause)

Leader: Lord, send our your Spirit

All: **AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH**

Leader: Together, we praise the Trinity as we say

All: **GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.**

Leader: May almighty God bless us (+) the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **AMEN**

Leader: Go forth to serve in God's name.

All: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

