

Stewardship Requirements for 7th and 8th Grade

In a special way, the sacrament of Confirmation is to graciously fill Christians with the desire to serve the Church and the world. God's many gifts to us have been given so that we might share them with our families and with our Church. The testimony of the early Church bears witness to the fact that service in stewardship for the community was a hallmark of authentic Christian life. Therefore, service by candidates for Confirmation is an important aspect of preparation and an opportunity for formation. The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church is an outgrowth of the encounter with Jesus Christ who loved the poor so dearly: the poor in health, the poor in spirit, the socially poor, and the materially poor. The "preferential option for the poor" is a helpful guide for discernment in service. The long tradition of the Corporal Works of Mercy is another guide for directing service projects. The formation around service in stewardship for the Church should include the teaching that anything done in love can be a moment of service for God, and thus the Church and the world. This was the great insight of St. Thérèse of Lisieux whose "little way" showed us that "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing," and that "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them." As we read in the letter of St. James, "faith without works is dead" (2:20), and works must be done in love. The candidate who performed the task should be encouraged to reflect on the service either orally or in writing. In such reflections the candidates would be encouraged to make the connection between their service and their own personal relationship with Christ and with the mission of the Church. (Guidelines for Confirmation Archdiocese of Omaha)

Candidates have two options of obtaining stewardship requirements:

Option 1: Candidates will do 5 hours of service inside the church and 5 hours of service outside of the church

Option 2: Candidates will obtain service credit by participating in projects under the following categories:

(please note-there are no hour requirements with this option but all four categories must be met)

- Inside the parish
- Outside the parish
- With their family
- With their sponsor

WE ENCOURAGE ALL CANDIDATES TO PARTICIPATE IN STEWARDSHIP THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT AND TAKE THE TIME TO REFLECT ON THEIR OWN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

Remember to fill out your online reflection after in order to receive credit for service. This form can be found at: <https://stephen.org/sacraments/#confirmation>