

## **Discipleship Hours**

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself”*

*– Matthew 22:37-39*

Discipleship hours are a requirement for Confirmation at St Francis de Sales. Why do we require discipleship hours? The services hours are meant to inspire in each Confirmation candidate a love for God and a love for neighbor.

*How do I fulfill this requirement?*

Twenty (20) hours are needed to fulfill the requirement. The service hours should relate to the Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works of Mercy.. For example, one of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to instruct the ignorant. Your child can sign up to volunteer with Vacation Bible School. The Religious Education Office and MAC-PAC will provide opportunities during the summer and throughout the year for the candidates to fulfill this requirement. The candidate must fill out the Confirmation Discipleship Form for each different act of service. The Discipleship Form for must be signed by a parent. If you have any questions if a service project counts as Discipleship Hours, please contact the RE Office.

### **The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy**

From the moment of our baptism, we embark on a lifelong journey to know and love the Lord. We are taught from our earliest years the doctrines of the Catholic Church. But it's not simply enough to know Jesus, we must also love Him. The Gospels teach us that we foster that love for Jesus Christ Himself when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned. “As often as you do it for the least of my brothers, you did for me” (Mt. 25:40). Based on both Scripture and Tradition, the Church teaches that we can fulfill this command of Jesus, by doing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

#### The Corporal Works of Mercy:

*Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; Clothe the naked; Give shelter to the homeless; Visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned; Bury the dead.*

The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. Through the Corporal Works of Mercy, we recognize the sacredness of human life.

#### The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

*Counsel the doubtful; Instruct the ignorant; Admonish the sinner; Comfort the afflicted; Forgive offenses; Bear wrongs with patience; Pray for the living and dead.*

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

The works of mercy are not optional but are absolutely essential to living the Christian life of holiness and goodness. (CCC2447)

