

Dear Students and Parents,

January 7, 2021

I hope all are healthy and well during these uncertain times.

Traditionally we have offered service opportunities to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. 's Holiday on January 18th. This year in light of the Shelter in Place Order we will be honoring the day by encouraging Mercy students and their families to engage in service opportunities as a family unit. Service projects can be completed either on January 18th or during Catholic Schools Week January 25-29, 2021.

Recently I have received emails from local nonprofits in desperate need of donations and volunteers. Here is a list of possibilities that Mercy families can consider to participate in this event.

Ms. Simonetti and I have been contemplating how as a Mercy community to continue our MLK Day of Service (January 18) event and Catholic Schools Week (January 25-January 29) despite the current shelter in place order because of our shortage of ICU beds and a new strain of COVID 19.

This is what we propose for the whole student body and their families to celebrate MLK Day of Service and Catholic Schools Week. Sometime between January 18 and January 29th do service as a family event!

As service coordinator, I continue to receive emails and stay informed with the number of nonprofits who are in desperate need of donations and volunteers. Here is a list of suggestions of what you and your families could do and by no means are you limited to these...

- Prepare a meal and deliver it to an elderly family member/person [CORE hours]
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood, a [beach](#) or hiking trail that you frequent [CORE]
- Offer to walk a neighbor's dog [CORE]
- Offer to garden a neighbor's yard [CORE]
- Contact an elderly person by phone or zoom [CORE]
- Schedule a socially distanced visit with an elderly neighbor [CORE]
- Write a letter to an elderly person [Supplemental]
- Contact a local Assisted Living Facility and ask if there is any way your family can be of service at this time. (Lists of facilities available)
- Watch a film or documentary on the Civil Rights Movement [Learning]

- Attend a Zoom lecture/workshop on the Civil Rights; Peninsula Multifaith Coalition is hosting some [zoom events](#) [Learning]
- Donate canned goods to [Second Harvest Food Bank/SF Marin Food Bank](#) [Supplemental]
- Donate clothes to a [shelter](#) (new tube socks and used jackets most needed during winter [Supplemental])
- Volunteer at a food bank; [Supplemental]

The opportunities are endless, if you are unsure of a specific opportunity please email me, pdiaz@mercyhsb.com

At Mercy we truly believe that in order to follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley we should be reaching out to those in need. Let us continue to be a light in these dark and uncertain times. Thank you for letting others experience Mercy through their interactions with your families.

May God bless you all,
Mr. Diaz