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Importance of Service

Growing up at a Catholic school taught me the importance of service and giving back to others. Jesus' teachings revolve around love, which can be shown through service. Service is more than an action; it is a spiritual being and a mindset that is a core value of the Catholic Faith. Changing your intentions from benefiting yourself to helping others, and encouraging community growth is living in Jesus' footsteps. This allows a deeper understanding and connection to the world around us and increases appreciation for what God has given us. Service is a way for students to grow in connection with God, take a stand against injustice, and support their community.

Service allows for faith to be put into action. Being faithful isn't just prayer and going to church; it is about expressing Jesus' teaching to others. This is described many times throughout the bible. Mark, one of Jesus' disciples, says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). This verse supports our school's mission of the theological virtue of Charity. Charity is not just shown in money, it is shown in serving our neighbors and supporting our community. Jesus lived his life with humility and never put himself above others. He calls his children to act the same and lend a helping hand to everyone, from the less fortunate to those who have

power above us. Being selfless and embracing a purpose deeper than oneself allowed Jesus and his disciples to help thousands of people and continue their teaching for centuries.

Service is sometimes necessary to make a change for an injustice witnessed or prominent in your community. God inspires us to serve, yet sometimes having a real-world call to action can help motivate others to serve. The world is a place of love and joy but also injustice and hopelessness. Service can often be seen in this form, whether advocacy for a policy seen as unfit, raising awareness for a cause, or working to clean the environment. Service is giving oneself to a cause and being a part of something bigger than oneself. By volunteering your time or effort to an organization, you express your values physically, not just verbally. Ursula K Le Guin, an American science fiction writer, voiced “Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks them.” Service teaches students empathy, leadership, how to take initiative, and open-mindedness. Understanding different perspectives and allowing oneself to be vulnerable makes a student's character a stimulant for love and justice.

A healthy community requires the support and assistance of others. Service gives a community a strong foundation built on compassion, gratitude, and selflessness principles. Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife states, “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members”. A community can flourish with hope and unity if generosity and compassion are prioritized over judgment and greed. In today's society, personal

growth is often put over the development of a community. While this mindset can be good in allowing oneself to become a better person, it can also lead to selfishness.

Volunteer work within your community makes everyone better, allowing for a sense of shared purpose and care. When everyone is united and happy, a community can flourish and grow to become its best version, benefiting everyone. Being selfless and giving yourself to your community requires hard work, but it is so rewarding to bring everyone together.

Service is a critical part of education. It teaches students the importance of being above oneself and finding a greater purpose in life. Service teaches many vital life lessons and attributes that can help them be as successful as possible throughout their lives. Service has varying forms, yet all service leads to the common theme of love for others and oneself. Service through God allows for personal connections and personal growth. Service for an injustice strengthens one's morals and allows for hope. Service for the community results in unity and joy. Having a shared humanity requires all these qualities taught through volunteering.