



EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN
SINCE 1927

Christian Service Information

Practicing Christian service is an integral part of being part of a Catholic school and working for the common good. Performing acts in service for others is our call to love God and neighbor. The tenants of Catholic Social Teaching clearly state that our overarching goal as social, spiritual, and physical beings is to be in service of one another. In the [Parable of the Last Judgement](#), Jesus clearly states, "...for as often as you did it to one of these the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me." This parable marks a clear expectation on our mission and even what is ultimately most important, which is the poor and marginalized.

During their time at Our Lady of Tepeyac, students should be provided with opportunities to grow in the area of service, both in action and in theological and spiritual reflection. These opportunities should be intentional in helping our students grow and not simply put forth as a means to check a necessary requirement off their list of things to get done.

Service opportunities need to be planned with intentionality in mind. What is Christian service? Is a young person cleaning their room without being asked considered service? Is a young person collecting items for a food drive enough to be called service? Is volunteering at a parish or school fundraiser considered service? It is important to discern these questions and others as opportunities arise to categorize them correctly.

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are a good place to start when thinking about service opportunities for young people and how to think about the idea of *volunteering* and *Christian service*.

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy
Feed the hungry	Admonish sinners
Give drink to the thirsty	Instruct the uninformed
Clothe the naked	Counsel the doubtful
Shelter the homeless	Comfort the sorrowful
Visit and comfort those in prison	Be patient with those in error
Visit the sick	Forgive offenses
Bury the dead	Pray for the living and the dead

The Corporal Works of Mercy help us reflect on very tangible and often physical actions that we can take to serve others. For instance, we can easily feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty when we serve at a soup kitchen. We can see the work of sheltering the homeless when we volunteer for a night at a [PADS](#) site. We might not see the effects immediately of clothing the naked when we donate clothes, but we can know if we are educated about the organizations we collaborate with.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy can both be formal opportunities, but also personal encounters because a lot of what the Spiritual Works of Mercy call us to are not necessarily encounters that can be quantified in time but are critical in helping young people how we serve one another spiritually as spiritual beings. For example, being a tutor or mentor is a great way to engage in instructing the uninformed or tutoring, which is using your gifts to work with those who would benefit from that service. Focus on being a good friend and comfort a friend in need, forgive them when they make mistakes, and provide appropriate counsel.