Central Catholic
HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Project 2026
Central State of Mind Theme: Faith in Action: Walk This Way
Project Theme: Walking With Others: Faith, Dignity, and Community in Action
Due Date: Advisory Day, Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Submission: Bring evidence of your project (artifact, documentation, photos, journal, video, artwork, or reflection) and be prepared to share during your Advisory Period.

Overview & Inspiration

In the Gospel, Jesus does not simply tell people what to believe—He walks with them. He notices the excluded, listens to the hurting, uplifts the forgotten, and reminds every person of their dignity and worth.

This summer's theme, **Faith in Action: Walk This Way**, asks us to think about:

- How we treat others
- How we live our faith through action
- How we help people feel respected, included, and valued
- How we use our gifts to strengthen community

To "walk this way" means:

- Choosing compassion over judgment
- Treating every person with dignity and respect
- Building bridges across differences
- Serving others with humility and love

Your life becomes the project.
Your choices become the evidence.
Your walk becomes your witness.

"Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night." — Pope Francis

Your Mission

Design and complete a meaningful personal, family, school, parish, or community-based project that answers the question:

"How do I live my faith in action by walking with others in ways that promote dignity, respect, belonging, and service?"

Your project should include:

- Intentional acts of service, justice, compassion, or inclusion
- Reflection on how you treat and value others
- Thoughtful consideration of your role in a diverse community
- Exploration of the gifts and strengths you bring to others
- Documentation of both your actions and your growth

This project is not about completing hours or checking a box. It is about meaningful engagement, authentic reflection, and becoming the kind of person who helps others feel seen, valued, and supported. You can achieve this in your own family or in the broader community.

Project Possibilities (Examples)

You are encouraged to be creative, authentic, and intentional. Possible projects may include:

Service & Community

- Organizing or participating in a food, clothing, or school supply drive
- Volunteering consistently with a local organization or parish
- Supporting elderly neighbors or families in need
- Tutoring, mentoring, or coaching younger students
- Participating in environmental stewardship or community clean-up efforts

Dignity & Inclusion

- Intentionally building relationships with people different from yourself
- Learning about another culture, background, or lived experience
- Creating opportunities for inclusion in sports, clubs, church, or community spaces
- Reflecting on ways to reduce loneliness, exclusion, or bullying
- Practicing daily acts of kindness, encouragement, or gratitude

Advocacy & Justice

- Raising awareness about an issue impacting vulnerable populations
- Supporting organizations serving marginalized communities
- Creating a campaign or project promoting respect, unity, or belonging
- Exploring how faith calls us to respond to injustice

Personal Growth & Leadership

- Identifying and using your gifts to serve others
- Reflecting on how your words and actions impact community
- Working on becoming a more compassionate listener, teammate, leader, or friend
- Practicing patience, forgiveness, humility, or empathy in everyday life

Projects may be individual or collaborative, but they must be intentional, meaningful, and connected to the theme.

Step 1: Prepare Your Heart – Pre-Project Reflection

Before beginning, take time to reflect through prayer, journaling, conversation, or quiet thought. Consider the following questions:

- Where do I see loneliness, division, exclusion, or suffering in the world around me?
- When have I felt welcomed, valued, or respected by others?
- How do my actions impact the people around me?
- What gifts, talents, or qualities do I bring that help others feel supported or included?
- How can I use my strengths to bring out the best in others?
- What kind of teammate, friend, classmate, family member, or leader do I want to be?
- How is God calling me to walk with others this summer?
- What does it mean to uphold the dignity of every person?
- How can I contribute to a community where people feel safe, respected, and valued?
- Which Works of Mercy or principles of Catholic Social Teaching connect most deeply to me right now?

Step 2: Walk This Way – Live Your Project

As you carry out your project, intentionally connect your actions to the values of faith, mercy, justice, dignity, and community.

Catholic Social Teaching Connections

Your project should reflect one or more of the following:

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
  Every person deserves respect, compassion, and a sense of belonging.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**

We are stronger when we support and include one another.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**
  We are called to notice and serve those most in need.
- **Solidarity**
  We walk alongside others as brothers and sisters.
- **Care for God's Creation**
  Caring for the earth is part of caring for one another.
- **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**
  Every person deserves fairness, respect, and opportunity.

Corporal Works of Mercy (Serving Physical Needs)
- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy (Serving Emotional & Spiritual Needs)
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Counsel the doubtful
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for others
- Encourage and uplift others
- Practice empathy and understanding

Step 3: Document Your Journey
Throughout the summer, document your experience in ways that capture both your actions and your personal growth.

Possible documentation:
- Journal or reflection entries
- Photos or videos
- Interviews or conversations
- Artwork, poetry, music, or creative projects
- Voice memos or digital storytelling
- Notes, plans, schedules, or artifacts from your work

As you document, consider:
- How did I show respect and dignity toward others?
- When did I step outside my comfort zone?
- How did I help create a sense of belonging or inclusion?
- What did I learn from people whose experiences differ from my own?
- How did my gifts positively impact others?
- How did others bring out the best in me?

Step 4: Share & Reflect – Advisory Reflection

Be prepared to share your experience during Advisory using examples, stories, or artifacts from your project.
Use these reflection prompts to guide your thinking:
- What did you do, and why did you choose this project?
- How did your project reflect the theme "Faith in Action: Walk This Way"?
- How did you practice treating others with dignity and respect?
- In what ways did your experience deepen your understanding of community and belonging?

- What gifts or strengths did you bring to this experience?
- How did your gifts help bring out the best in others?
- What did you learn from the people you encountered?
- Which Works of Mercy or Catholic Social Teaching principles did you live out?
- What challenges did you face, and how did you respond?
- How did this experience shape your understanding of faith in action?
- How will you continue to "walk this way" during the school year and beyond?

Final Challenge: Be the Person Who Helps Others Flourish

Faith in action is not only about what we do.
It is about how we treat people along the way.

This summer, be intentional about:

- Listening before judging
- Including rather than excluding
- Serving rather than seeking recognition
- Seeing the dignity in every person
- Using your gifts to strengthen community
- Helping others become the best version of themselves

When we walk with compassion, humility, courage, and love, we help create the kind of community where everyone can flourish.

Final Thought
This summer is an invitation not simply to think about faith, but to live it.
Walk with purpose.
Walk with compassion.
Walk alongside others.
Walk this way.
Let your life be a witness.

> "Faith becomes real when it is lived."
> — C.S. Lewis