

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Hours

- **Program Goals**

- To effectively live out Christ's *Mandatum* to love one another through service and by offering our lives as living sacrifices and as a gift to others, especially to the poor, elderly, sick, and vulnerable.
- To actively integrate the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching learned in the St. Pius X theology curriculum into the lived experience of students and their families.
- To foster a culture of generosity and service of time, talent, and treasure in the St. Pius X community and in the local community at large.

- **Program Requirements**

- Each student will be responsible for completing a total of ten hours of service based on the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching each academic year, with five hours due before the end of each semester.
 - Fall Deadline: December 10, 2026
 - Spring Deadline:
 - Seniors: April 13, 2027
 - Freshman-Juniors: May 5, 2027
- These hours will be logged digitally by each student on a platform provided by the Campus Ministry Department.
- Students must acquire a verification from their supervisor of their service activities to submit along with their hours.
- Students may complete some of their hours each academic year by volunteering with the following St. Pius X campus activities and initiatives:
 - Holiday Marketplace
 - Heritage Homecoming
 - After School Recycling Program
- Students will receive a pass/fail grade on their transcript based off of their successful completion of their 10 hours of service.
- Students will complete a reflection paper in their theology classes before the end of the second semester, engaging in theological reflection on their service experience to integrate their service with their theology curriculum.
- ****Failure to meet the spring deadline will result in an extra five accountability hours in addition to finishing the original 10 hour requirement. The student will be contacted by Campus Ministry and will be responsible for doing Credit Recovery during the summer to make up for all missed hours.**

- **The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching**

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
 - Every human life, from conception to natural death, is created in the *Imago Dei*, the image and likeness of God, and therefore possesses a unique and inherent dignity which must be upheld and protected.
 - Examples of service for this principle may include visits to the sick, homebound, and elderly, visiting those in prisons, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry, and participating in the Pro-Life movement.
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
 - The human person is inherently social and exists not in isolation or solitude, but in community. Marriage and the family are the human person's first and most intimate experience of community, and the family is the backbone of society. Human beings have the right and the responsibility to participate actively in society in the pursuit of the common good.
 - Examples of service for this principle may include service to the St. Pius X community together with their families. (i.e. volunteering with Holiday Marketplace or Heritage Homecoming)
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
 - Christians will be judged at the end of time based on how they lived Christ's teaching to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the imprisoned. Every Christian is called to give special care and attention to the most vulnerable members of our communities, actively providing for those in need.
 - Examples of service for this principle may include feeding the hungry and clothing the naked through serving with organizations like St. Vincent de Paul, volunteering at local homeless shelters and food pantries, volunteering with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to provide housing for the poor/homeless, and participating in mission trips.
- Solidarity
 - The word "Catholic" means "universal." Our shared humanity comes from our Creator and transcends race, culture, and religion. We are called to stand with our brothers and sisters and to actively pursue and work for justice in our world.
 - Examples of service for this principle may include advocacy work for social justice.
- Rights and Responsibilities
 - Every human being possesses certain rights and has a shared responsibility to live and act for the good of their families, friends, and communities.

- There are certain obligations we have to our families and communities which we strive to live out as part of our normal daily lives. **These responsibilities will not be counted for credit or service hours.**
- ***Examples of hours which will not be accepted for credit due to our understanding of this principle may include: babysitting siblings or spending time with grandparents, household chores, volunteering at sporting events or regular on-campus activities at St. Pius X which are not geared towards service, and liturgical ministry at local parishes (altar serving, lectoring, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, etc.).*
- Dignity and Rights of Workers
 - Economies exist to serve humanity, not vice versa. Every human person is entitled to meaningful, dignified work, decent and fair wages, to private property, and to economic initiative.
 - Examples of service for this theme may include participating in the Church's social justice work, delivering food or winter clothing to local day laborers, or assisting with organizations that provide meaningful employment to those who otherwise would not be able to access it.
- Care for Creation
 - The Earth is our common home. We are called to protect and not to exploit it. Human beings deserve access to food and basic nutrition, clean drinking water, and sanitary and dignified living conditions.
 - Examples of service for this theme may include assisting with local recycling efforts, park/river cleanup projects, picking up litter, volunteering at local animal shelters/humane societies, and assisting with the After School Recycling Program.
 - In addition to some of the examples mentioned with the themes above, students are encouraged to continue to use the Works of Mercy to help guide them in their decisions on how best to serve. Students can check the Campus Ministry webpage for an extensive list of approved service projects, and are encouraged to check with the campus ministry department prior to beginning their service work to ensure that their service will meet the necessary requirements for the Catholic Social Teaching hours program.