

*For more information, forms, and resources, please contact the Office for Evangelization!*

**Reporting Form:** <https://tinyurl.com/MoService2017>

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OFFICE FOR  
**EVANGELIZATION**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND



**DIOCESAN MONTH OF  
SERVICE**  
October 2017



## **Diocese of Richmond**

**A Call for catholic youth,  
college students, and young adults  
across the Diocese of Richmond  
to unite in service.**



## Care for God's Creation

The Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation

## Discussion questions

In the morning or at lunch, have someone briefly present the meaning behind service – don't assume everyone knows why it is important (highlight the Seven Core Values, Works of Mercy). Follow with group discussion.

### Sample Discussion Questions:

- 1) What has been the highlight of your day so far? What has been challenging?
- 2) Why did you choose to participate today? What does service mean to you?
- 3) Has anyone ever participated in a Service Day or Trip before? Can you tell us about it? What was the best part? Hardest part?
- 4) Why should we take time to serve others?
- 5) Why do you think Jesus emphasized serving others as part of his Mission on earth?
- 6) What can we do today to show others the love of Christ?
- 7) Beyond today, how can we recognize the needs of others and respond to them?

## Why a Service Day?

Every Catholic is called to serve others! It is not just for a select few, but all the baptized. In serving others, we serve Jesus Christ himself. We show our love for God by loving others. It is not about how the service makes us feel or what we get out of it, but about recognizing the needs of others. We uphold the dignity of other humans when we look them in the eye, feed them, or help them in various ways. Therefore, it's not just a duty to be carried out, but a joyful duty. Serving others is an opportunity to give a drink of water to Christ who calls, "I thirst!"

## Why a Diocesan Month of Service?

When we act together as the Body of Christ, we recognize, express, and deepen our Christian unity. Solidarity across the diocese strengthens and unites the universal Church. It reminds us we are not separated and alone but remain a unified family under Bishop Francis DiLorenzo. Let us live out our Catholic faith together as we respond to Our Lord's call in the month of October:

"And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." *Matthew 10:42*

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" *Matthew 25:38-40*

"You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead." *James 2:22, 24*

# How do I host a Service Day?

## Step 1: Designate Specific Leaders

Leadership is key to any successful endeavor. Sharing the responsibilities will multiply your efforts and capabilities, as well as your time and who you can reach. Try to avoid being the only person responsible for several tasks. Work with various ministries! Ask others to be on the leadership team: e.g. the Young Adult Coordinator, Campus Minister, Youth Minister, catechists, parents, etc. Below is a sample team with various roles. It's up to you to determine and define these roles. You may want to overlap, combine, or add responsibilities. It's good for each leader to find other volunteer to help in these areas.

*Service Day Coordinator:* Oversees all aspects. Helps put team in place.

*Communications Leader:* Point person between team members, parish, and service site contacts. Oversees promotion/advertising.

*Catechist/Prayer Leader:* Plans and leads times of prayer, music, and discussion on Service Day.

*Logistics Leader:* Oversees meal planning and serving. Oversees transportation, use of tools, and other important details.

## Step 2: Choose Team Meeting Dates

For example, have three, one-hour meetings: 6-8 weeks prior to Service Day, 3 weeks prior to Service Day, and 2 days prior to Service Day. You will also communicate between meetings. These will help you confirm details, work together, and focus your progress. The first thing you should do is determine your project and work site.

## Step 3: Promote

The number one way to get people involved is through **personal invitation**. This is another key to the leadership team: a leader is invested in the Service Day and thus motivated to invite people. Additionally, use all the available mediums for advertising (email, social media, posters, bulletin announcements, etc.). This will reach a larger audience. Ask your pastor to plug the Service Day at the end of Mass several weeks before the event. The Sunday before (Nov. 1), ask your pastor to include a prayer for those participating, ask them to stand and extend a blessing, or simply mention it and encourage participation. Be present after Masses to ask people to sign up and commit to the day (be ready to collect names and contact info-online or on paper). This will help you plan appropriately for meals, drivers, and tools. Don't limit participation to parishioners! Encourage people to invite their friends.

vulnerable. The role of government and other institutions is to protect and promote the common good.

## Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities – to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

## Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

## The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

We believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

## Solidarity

Our culture is tempted to turn inward, becoming indifferent and sometimes isolationist in the face of international responsibilities. Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

# Catholic Social Teaching

## Corporal Works of Mercy:    Spiritual Works of mercy:

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To ransom the captive
- To bury the dead
- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To admonish sinners
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive offences willingly
- To comfort the afflicted
- To pray for the living and the dead

## Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

### Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and

## Step 4: Put on a Great Service Day!

Remember, you are serving the Lord by serving others. Smile! Throughout the day, post pictures to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter with the hashtag: **#CDRserve**.

## Step 5: Debrief

Meet with your team one final time. Wrap up any unattended items. Write down notes to help improve for your next *Service Day*. Send pictures from your project to [evangelization@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:evangelization@richmonddiocese.org) and share with us some highlights by filling out the Reporting Form (found at <https://tinyurl.com/MoService2017>).



## Key Components

**Ideas:** Contact staff members and heads of ministries at your parish and ask them about local needs. Contact any Social Ministry group in your parish to brainstorm ways to serve. Contact others outside your parish for more ideas.

**Fundraising:** Do you need funds to pay for shirts, food, or supplies going to those being served? Have the participants put on a fundraiser a week or two before (tell the parish about it and ask for donations, have a bake sale, etc.).

**Meals:** Have volunteers make bagged lunches for participants. This is a way to incorporate more people into the day who are not able to be serving at the site.

**Supplies:** Do you need tools or any items for your service? Ask parishioners to donate or loan these items. Keep track of donated items in order to return when finished.

**Transportation:** Sign-up volunteer drivers to take participants and supplies. Have drivers fill out the Volunteer Driver Form found on the Office for Evangelization Web site.

**Permission Forms:** All minors will need to bring a permission form with a signature from a parent/guardian in order to participate. Sample forms are available at <http://evangelizerichmond.org>.

**Chaperones:** Make sure to follow Diocesan guidelines and VIRTUS policies and have 2 adults with each group.

**Social Media:** Let's take over social media! Throughout the day, post pictures to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter with the hashtag: **#CDRserve**. You could also include a 2nd hashtag that is unique to your group. During the day, search the hashtag to see what other groups are doing around the diocese.

**Teaching, Discussion, and Prayers:** There is information about Catholic Social Teaching, discussion questions, and prayers for the Service Day available in the back of this booklet.

**Follow up:** Take notes about your experience. Share thoughts, pictures, and highlights with the Office for Evangelization with our survey at [https://tinyurl.com/MoService2017!](https://tinyurl.com/MoService2017)

## Closing Prayers

**Leader:** Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to serve our community on this Diocesan Day of Service. We ask that you be with each person we encountered today and bring them many blessings. Help us to continue to love those you place in our lives and to recognize that each person is made in your image and deserves our respect. Help us to be open to your will like the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Blessed Mother, help us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord in word and deed. Help us to extend God's mercy to others. Help us to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry. As we recite your song, we give the Lord honor and glory:

**ALL:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor  
on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Midday prayer: Angelus

**Leader:** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

**Response (ALL):** And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

**L:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**R:** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**L:** Behold the handmaid of the Lord

**R:** Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

**L:** Hail Mary . . . **R:** Holy Mary...

**L:** And the Word was made Flesh

**R:** And dwelt among us.

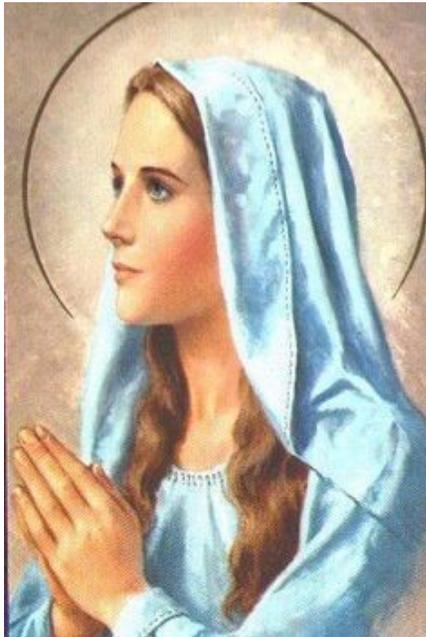
**L:** Hail Mary . . . **R:** Holy Mary...

**L:** Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

**R:** that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**L:** Let us pray:

**All:** Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



## Project Ideas

- Serve at a Soup kitchen
- Volunteer at Parish pantry or food bank
- Clothing closet
- Local Pregnancy Center: Gardening, office work, other needs? Put on Prayer Vigil
- Put on a Parent's Day out (older kids volunteer to watch younger ones)
- Clean the parish
- Clean a yard, plant flowers, mulch flower beds or playground
- Go around neighborhood and collect canned food for local homeless shelter
- Visit a retirement center (meet with individuals, plan music, games, or an activity)
- Write letters or make cards for soldiers, sick hospital patients, or the homebound
- Contact Catholic Relief Services about helping hands events for packages sent overseas
- Collect toys for kids or funds for women's shelter
- Collect Christmas presents
- Collect food to create special Thanksgiving meal
- River clean-up, road clean-up, or park clean-up (pick up trash and debris)
- Contact Habitat for Humanity
- Staff a blood drive
- Make rosaries, have a priest bless them, and then give away
- Contact the Office for Social Ministries to learn more about opportunities in your area: <http://www2.richmonddiocese.org/osm>.
- Visit [www.Virginia211.org](http://www.Virginia211.org) to find a list of community service organizations based on what you want to do.

#CDRserveS

## Proposed Timeline

<b>2 Months</b> prior	Designate leadership team
<b>6-8 Weeks</b> prior:	Choose project and site, Schedule leadership meetings, Begin advertising
<b>1 month</b> prior:	Finalize plans, Confirm volunteers, Make sure adults are VIRTUS certified, Order T-shirts (optional)
<b>1 week</b> prior:	Purchase needed items and collect donated items, Get food for meals, Collect Medical Form in case of emergency from all volunteers
<b>1 Day</b> prior:	Organize supplies and review schedule with leaders
<b>After</b> Service Day:	Meet and discuss. Record highlights to share. Make notes for future.

## Proposed Schedule

8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast Each participant gets a name-tag and t-shirt (if ordered)
8:30 AM	Begin with a morning prayer. Welcome participants, thank them for coming, and explain why it is important to serve others. Opening activity (fun, help everyone meet each other). Review schedule for the day.
8:50 AM	Announce work assignments, crews, drivers, etc. Send groups to work site. Make sure they have lunch, water, needed supplies, and first-aid kit.
12:00 PM	Pray Angelus; 12:05 Lunch
12:30 PM	Resume Work
3:30 PM	Return to Parish Give participants a chance to share about their day with the large group. Remind participants to share photos on social media: <b>#CDRserve</b> .
4:00 PM	Closing Prayers
4:15 PM	Conclude (or conclude with Mass at parish or a dinner prepared by parents)

## Prayer for Day of Service

### Morning Prayers

**Leader:** Lord, As we prepare to serve those in our Diocese, help us to see you in others. Help us to serve with your love in our hearts. Amen.

**ALL:** Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray:

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

**Leader:** God of all blessings, open our hearts that we may recognize the gifts You have given us.

God of all wonders, open our eyes that we may see You in all things.

God of justice, open our ears that we may hear the cry of the poor and disenfranchised.

**ALL:** We stand, in gratitude for Your gifts.

We stand, in awe of Your wonders.

We stand, in this moment; ready to participate in our service work this day. Amen.

#### **Intercessions:**

**Leader:** Lord, we bring before you our needs and the desires of hearts.

We pray especially for those we will serve and encounter today. May we be ready to joyfully share your love with each person. Please hear our prayers: *(invite participants to offer their own prayers)*

**Leader:** Lord, we offer these and all the prayers of our hearts in your holy name.

#### **ALL: Our Father...**

**Leader:** Jesus, shine through me and be so in me that every person I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Amen.