

# Matthew 25 Project



**St. John XXIII Parish  
Confirmation Justice &  
Service Component**



For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
I was in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25:35-36

The Matthew 25 Project is the service component of the Confirmation program. The project is inspired by the Works of Mercy as written in the Gospel of Matthew and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The project consists of two components: **Direct Service and Social Action.**

The goal is that each candidate will be able to clearly identify the differences between direct service and social action through their own experience. Each candidate will choose a substantial project in the area of Direct Service and study about or participate in a form of Social Action. Each project will be documented in some form to be turned in by April 7, 2024.

Always remember that you are not alone in this project. We are here to help you! Feel free to contact us for ideas or suggestions:

Formation Office 262-284-2102      [rotramelm@stjohn23rd.org](mailto:rotramelm@stjohn23rd.org)

**Note: Yes! There are 2 papers/projects due by April 7<sup>th</sup> with this project.**

Part 1 is a reflection paper or project on Direct Service.

Part 2 is a paper or project on Social Action.

To help you stay on target we will check in with you from time to time:

**January** – By now you should have decided on your Direct Service Project and started on your volunteer service.

**February** – You may be asked to provide us with a topic for your Social Action paper/activity on February 4. You should begin your Social Action research now!

**March** – You should be working on your Direct Service reflection project & Social Action project this month.



## Part I

**Direct Service/Charitable Works** – Actions responding to the needs of individuals; deals with the effects of problems. One “foot” of Love in Action.

*Example: If people are hungry...direct services include: taking up a monetary collection, opening an emergency food pantry, and feeding those who are hungry.*

**Some ideas for direct service projects:** Food Pantry, Homeless shelters, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Tutoring Programs, Respect Life Organizations, Environmental Clean-up; Participate with the Parish Human Concerns Commission, Liturgical Ministries, Religious Education Programs...Help elderly neighbors or family members, baby-sit for free for a family in your neighborhood on a regular basis...for other ideas check the Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County

- Choose a project that is ongoing, where you volunteer on a regular basis
- Your direct service should be over and above regular family chores
- You should not get paid for your service
- Volunteer work that you do for a high school requirement **can** be included

**Direct service reflection due April 7, 2024**

### **Paper/Project**

Provide a written, photo, artistic, or video presentation of your direct service. Reflect on the following questions and share your thoughts creatively. Describe your project and the amount of time you volunteered. This can be in the form of a paper, a presentation, video or other means to convey the answers to these questions:

1. What kind of direct service did you do? When did you do this service?
2. Why did you pick this kind of service project?
3. What effect did your service have on the people you served? What impact did you make, if any?
4. Do you feel that this form of direct service is important? Was it meaningful? Why?
5. How is your service related to being a Catholic Christian...a disciple of Christ?
6. Do you plan to continue to provide direct service in the future? Why?



## Part II

**Social Action/Social Justice** – Actions responding to the behavior of institutions; deals with the causes of problems. The second “foot” of Love in Action.

*Example: If people are hungry...social actions include asking, “Why?” What needs to be changed in our society to make sure that all people have food to eat? Who are the people who are most likely to go hungry? What can be done to change the social structure (system) in our country to protect the people most “at risk”? When we provide direct service, do we appreciate the dignity of all people as children of God?*

### **Social Action Reflection – Due April 7, 2024**

(Papers/projects you do for school are acceptable, but you may need to rework them to fit our requirements. We are giving you these topics now so they may fit into some of the work you are already doing for school this year.)

Option 1. Write a paper or create a presentation on a current issue. Possible topics include but are not limited to: Consistent Life Ethic, Peace, Hunger, Gun Control, Environment/Climate Change, Racism, Women’s Issues, Children’s Issues, Elder Issues, Violence, Capital Punishment, Abortion, Euthanasia, Economic Issues, Poverty, Political Systems & Policies, Immigration, Health Care, Human Trafficking, Education...

- Identify the problem; include background (historical information and/or current technologies)
- **Articulate the Catholic Social Teaching on the issue you choose. What, if anything, does the Catholic Church have to say about the issue you chose? Is there anyone in the Church who has been outspoken on the issue?**
- Identify the controversy (if any) surrounding the issue and what either “side” says
- Who are some leaders who work on this area of social teaching? What do they say?
- What are some practical things people can do for social action in this area?
- **Conclude with your own personal reflection on this issue:** Why is it meaningful to you? What have you learned? What do you personally think about this issue? Do you plan to get involved? Why? Do you see any hope for change?

Option 2. Write a biographical paper or create a presentation on a person who dedicated her or his life to social action. Examples include but are not limited to: Augustus Tolton, Dorothy Day, Fr. Greg Boyle, Sr. Helen Prejean, Fr. James Martin, Pope Francis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, Cardinal Bernadine, Thea Bowman, Cesar Chavez, Oscar Romero, St. Katherine Drexel, Fr. Groppi, Catherine de Heuck Doherty, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Jean Vanier, St. John XXIII...

- Conclude with your own **personal reflection** on the life of this person: Why did you choose the person? What have you learned? Where did he/she find meaning in life? Do you feel he/she made a difference in the world? How can his/her life inspire others to social action? (Are you inspired by this person? Why or why not?)

Option 3. Interview someone who is actively involved in social action: a teacher of yours, a parent, a community leader, etc...Include biographical information and the **personal reflection** from option 2.

Option 4. Write a letter to an elected official, a newspaper or community organization in regards to one of the above issues (or one of your choosing) & provide us with a copy of the letter, date sent, and any response received.

Option 5. Attend a workshop on social justice, write a reflection paper or do a presentation on the experience and share what you learned. (See option 1 for outline.)

Option 6. Participate in a *legal* form of social action. Write a reflection paper or do a presentation after the experience and share what you learned. (See option 1 for outline.)

## **Websites:**

**General Catholic Sites:** These are for reference purposes only. Do not simply cut and paste from a web site – you need to answer the reflection questions on your own!

The Vatican [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Archdiocese of Milwaukee [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org)

U.S. Catholic [www.uscatholic.org](http://www.uscatholic.org)

St. Anthony Messenger [www.americancatholic.org/messenger](http://www.americancatholic.org/messenger)

National Catholic Reporter [www.ncronline.org](http://www.ncronline.org)

Catholic News Service [www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com)

America [www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org)

## **Social Action Sites**

Catholic Charities [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)

Catholic Relief Services [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development [www.usccb.org/cchd/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/)

The Catholic Worker Movement (Dorothy Day) [www.catholicworker.org](http://www.catholicworker.org)

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office for Social Justice [www.osjspm.org](http://www.osjspm.org)

Center of Concern [www.Coc.org](http://www.Coc.org)