



Answering The Call

Middle School Service Program

Program Objective:

This program is designed for young people in grades 7 and 8 to experience what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In learning to serve others, the words and teachings of Jesus become actualized; a personal foundation for life long service for others is established. “Answering the Call” of Christian discipleship is one requirement in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Program Guidelines:

There are three service components of the “Answering the Call” program.

Component #1: Youth Ministry

During the 7th and 8th grade, ALL students, non-Catholic included, must attend one youth ministry meeting at Divine Child **or** one youth ministry sponsored service event **or** one middle school youth conference (such as the CYO sponsored W.I.N.D. conference) per year. Registration to attend is required and limited per event. Registration forms are posted in the student’s religion classroom.

Component #2: Family

ALL families of 7th and 8th grade students, non-Catholic included, must complete one family service project per year from the service idea list provided or each family may plan their own project. The student and family must serve together and their service must be directed in helping the greater community. Serving the student’s immediate or extended family **does not** constitute the greater community.

Component #3: Student

ALL 7th and 8th grade students, non-Catholic included, must individually help the greater community a minimum of one time per school year. This service can be provided at a parish or school sponsored event such as the DCES Holiday Boutique, a parish clothing drive, or the annual parish Christmas gift donation weekend **or** the student can serve within their neighborhood or at a community organization such as a soup kitchen or a food pantry like Gleaners. Possible service opportunities are posted throughout the year in DCES room 111.

Written Program Components:

- During the 7th and 8th grade, all students must submit a written “Answering the Call” reflection form for each completed service component (youth ministry, family, and student).
- All three “Answering the Call” reflection forms must be submitted to the religious education office **no later than March 1** of the current school year.

“Answering The Call”

Suggested Middle School Family Service Projects

- Collect donations of new or gently used Bibles for Vista Maria
20651 W Warren St, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 (313) 271-3050
- Arrange a group volunteer activity at Vista Maria such as a game or craft night by calling Becky Hermann at 313-271-3050, extension 114.
- Visit military patients in a VA hospital
- Contact the Rectory and schedule a time to clean the parish grounds
- Be a greeter before Masses, especially on special holy days
- Make homemade cookies and deliver them to city employees
- Using large golf umbrellas, escort parishioners without umbrellas in and out of church on a rainy Sunday.
- Obtain unused flowers from florists or funeral parlor and create a bouquet for school /city officials or nursing home patients who do not regularly receive visitors.
- Make rosaries and donate them to your favorite charity
- Organize and host a birthday party for children in a shelter such as:

COTS Homeless Shelter (313) 831-3777 26 Peterboro Detroit, MI 48201 http://www.cotsdetroit.org	Covenant House (313) 463-2000 2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Detroit, MI
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- Sponsor a neighborhood car wash and donate the proceeds to charity
- Make fleece blankets and donate them to a women’s center such as:

Mary’s Mantle (248) 376-5338 PO Box 115 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303	Lennon Center (313) 277-5637 24275 Ann Arbor Trail Dearborn Hts, MI 48127
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- Visit a local nursing home and visit someone who does not receive visitors on a regular basis .
- Rake leaves or shovel snow for parishioners (other than family members) who are in need of assistance.
- Using a Knit Wit, make scarves and donate them to a homeless shelter.
- Organize a teddy bear drive and give all donations to the local fire department for children who have experienced a house fire.
- Volunteer at the Dearborn Animal Shelter 2661 Greenfield, Dearborn, MI 48120
(313) 943-2697 friends@DearbornAnimals.org
- Uncover hidden headstones of debris at a local cemetery.
- Volunteer at the Pendrickton School for the Blind
26530 Eureka Rd, Taylor, MI 48180 (734) 946-7500
- Visit the Solanus Casey Center and pray the Rosary for a special intention
1820 Mount Elliott Street Detroit, MI 48207 Phone 313-579-2100 (Office)
hospitality@thecapuchins.org



CHURCH OF THE
**DIVINE
CHILD**

“Answering the Call” Service Reflection Form

Student’s name: _____

Grade: _____

Homeroom: _____

Circle the component completed:

Youth Ministry

Family

Student

Date service was provided: _____

Write a brief explanation of your service experience.

State which corporal or spiritual work of mercy your service provided.

How did the service you provided relate to the teachings of Jesus? Include the words of a Scripture chapter and verse to prove your answer.

Write a prayer about your service experience:
