

November 1, 2009

Dear Seventh Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to this year of preparation for the celebration of Confirmation! You will be receiving this Sacrament in the spring of 2011, but before you do, there is some preliminary work to be done...

Why all this preparation? In a nut-shell; you are being given the opportunity to receive for yourself the gift of Faith that was previously accepted for you at your Baptism by your parents, godparents, and the parish community. But first you have to acknowledge what faith means in your life and make a decision whether you desire membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation is a one-time event; however faith is a life-long process. During the next two years, this faith-confirming process will help you deepen your personal relationship with God, to develop your sense of belonging in a living Christian community, and to morally live your Catholic faith by word and action.

The fundamentals of faith are taught during your religious education classes, however, it is not something that you will magically be given when you are confirmed. Rather, faith is already present in your life. The goal is to confirm that inner faith. The church teaches us that faith is a central reality of our existence whether we are aware of it or not. We want to bring that faith to the surface, to deepen it, strengthen it, and share it with others. There may be some negative attitudes to chip away at, some problems to solve, some questions to ask and seek answers for – it's all good – we have two years! Still, the central focus is the faith that is already present within you.

Welcome, again, to this next step of your faith journey. The degree to which you open yourself to God's presence in your life will determine the quality of your spiritual experience. Pray – speak and listen to God – He has a great plan for your life! My prayer for you and your family is that these next two years of preparation are Spirit-filled and absolutely amazing!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the Religious Education Office at 426-2333, ext. 4 or email me at strosere.conf@charter.net.

God bless you always!

Janice Lindsay
Sacrament Coordinator

St. Rose of Lima Parish – Religious Education Office

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Janice Lindsay – Sacrament Coordinator

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Confirmation Preparation Packet Seventh Grade

2009 -2010

Seventh Grade – Confirmation Preparation Packet

Attached, you will find your “Seventh Grade Confirmation Preparation Packet.” In it you will find:

- 1) The Calendar of Events for you and your parents, (a duplicate copy of the one you received in September.) Please review this calendar with your parents and mark all dates on calendars at home, school and office. Many of these dates are for the spiritual enrichment of parents, who are also on their own faith journey. Please make every attempt to attend some, if not all, faith nights for adults.
- 2) A Faith Survey for you to complete and return to your catechist by *March 31, 2010*.
- 3) Confirmation Sponsor requirements and Sponsor Inquiry for you to read and review with your parents. Please prayerfully consider who will receive the honor of being asked to serve as your Sponsor. It is an important and on-going position!
- 4) An assignment on “Catholic Living” to be returned to your catechist by *March 31, 2010*.
- 5) A listing of Faith in Action Service Opportunities. This is a list of ideas and suggestions for you to consider in beginning your life-long commitment of serving others. Consider your own gifts and talents and prayerfully ask God for direction in where your service could be of most use. Ask for your parents help in this decision as well.
- 6) Faith in Action Service Log to record your ten-plus hours of service, (remember – it’s a life-long commitment,) including signature of the recipient of your good deeds. Return to your catechist by *March 31, 2010*. Seventh grade students not completing a minimum of ten hours will need to complete 25 hours during eighth grade.

You will also find enclosed:

- 1) Twelve Church Offering Envelopes. In thinking of the gift of faith given to you from God, please consider what you could do in His name by supporting your parish. You could consider donating some of your allowance once a month, or offering a portion of a payment you received for completing a job well done for someone else, or giving something up like soda or candy and donating the cost of the would-be goodies. As part of your on-going faith formation, supporting your parish is a very good and needed habit to begin. Just heating the church alone requires funds!
- 2) Various leaflets, booklets and articles for you and your parents to read.
- 3) And on the outside cover of the packet folder; the Confirmation Preparation - Sacramental Information Form. This form has been pre-printed with all the Diocesan required information needed for our Sacramental Registries that we currently have in our data base. Please ask your parent to look over carefully, correcting as necessary, and completing any blank information. The “Confirmation Name” is the Saint’s name you did your project on, which can be changed next year if desired. If you have the Sponsor information already, please complete the bottom portion of the form. If not yet decided, please leave blank. *No Sponsor certificates are due at this time!* If the Baptismal/First Communion information is missing, that means one of two things... (a) If your child was Baptized or received First Holy Communion here at St. Rose, we need the exact date: Month, Day, and Year. We then need to verify this information at the Rectory before we can enter into the data base. Verification will not occur until after February of 2010. If you have the Baptismal/First Communion Certificate on file, it would be better to attach a copy to the Sacramental Information Form. (b) If your child was Baptized or received First Holy Communion in a parish other than St. Rose, a copy of the Baptismal/First Communion Certificate must be attached to the Sacramental Information Form. We will be happy to make a copy of the certificate for you. This form and certificate copy must be returned to your catechist by *December 15, 2009*. The diocese requires this information and no student will receive their Confirmation Certificate next year without a fully completed Sacramental Information Form, including Baptismal and First Communion information.

ST. ROSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2009-2010 7th GRADE STUDENT CALENDAR

- November 1 **7th Grade All Saints Day - Instructional Mass and Confirmation Prep Enrollment**
5:00 – 6:30 pm, Church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
Confirmation Prep Packets distributed at this time
7th grade students will have class this week. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- November 3 **No Classes – Election Day**
- November 11 **Veteran’s Day – Classes in Session**
- November 14-15 **Social Concerns Food Drive**
During all Masses. Community Service opportunity each day
- November 25 **No Classes – Thanksgiving Holiday**
Please Note: There will be classes on Sunday 11/29. Beginning of Advent.
- November 30-
December 2 **Advent Reconciliation**
Grades 3 - 4 report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school,
Grades 5-6 report directly to class, pick up at church
Grade 7, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
Grade 8, report directly to class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes and Home Schooled students welcome at any session)
- December 20 **7th and 8th Grade Advent Mass**
5:00 – 6:15 pm, report to church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND THIS EVENING
NO OTHER 7TH & 8TH GRADE CLASSES THIS WEEK This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- December 24 - 31 **No Classes – Christmas Vacation!**
Classes resume on January 3rd.
- January 17-18 **No Classes – Martin Luther King Holiday**
- January 31-
February 2 **7th Grade – God’s Plan for Human Sexuality Talks**
Talks given during class times from our St. Rose Senior Youth Group members.
- February 14-15 **No Classes – President’s Weekend**
- February 16 **7th Grade Social Justice and Forgiveness Witness Talk with Detective Steven McDonald & Prayer Service for Life for Students and Parents**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Church -- ALL 7th Grade Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In.
- February 22 - 24 **Lenten Reconciliation During Class Times**
Grades 3 - 4 report directly to class, pick up at church (Grade 2 if time allows)
Grades 5-6 report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school,
Grade 7, report directly to class, pick up at school
Grade 8, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes and Home Schooled students welcome at any session)
- March 14 **Daylight Savings Time**
Spring ahead! Move clocks forward one hour.
- March 20-27 **Social Concerns Lenten Food Drive**
All Masses. Community Service Hours opportunity
- April 4 **No Classes – Happy Easter!**

- April 5-7 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
During all class times in Gathering Hall; Extremely important that all attend!
Late fees will be incurred.
- April 11 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
8:30 am – 1:30 pm in Gathering Hall; Extremely important that all attend!
- April 18 – 21 **No Classes! Spring Break** Enjoy!
- April 25 **Classes Resume**
- May 2 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
8:30 am – 1:30pm at Religious Education Office; Hurry – Before 5/31!Late Fee!
- May 2 **7th & 8th Grade End of Year Mass**
5:00-6:00 pm All Students and Parents, Report directly to Church, sit with class
6:00-8:30 pm 8th grade students only report to Gathering Hall for Youth Group Celebration.
Please Note – No regularly scheduled 7th/8th grade classes this week. Sunday students encouraged
to attend this Mass. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- June 29 –
July 3 **Carnival**
- July 26-30 **Vacation Bible School**
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Faith Survey
To be Returned to Catechist by *March 31, 2010*

Student Name: _____

This survey is an opportunity for you to examine your own response to faith in each of three areas:
1) Personal Faith, 2) Shared Faith with the Living Community, 3) Formal Faith of the Institutional Church.
Please read through the parts of the survey, filling in the blanks as indicated.

Personal Faith

Your personal faith is a unique relationship between you and God. God always initiates the faith experience – God loves first, God cares first, God speaks first within the depths of our hearts. We learn very gradually, over a whole lifetime, to be conscious of God’s loving presence; to accept the love relationship God offers us; and to respond to God with love, trust, loyalty. Listed below are some of the characteristics of the personal faith experience. Ask yourself: Is this the way I experience God? Is this the way God is revealed to me in the depths of my heart?

Mark the items: **V** – very much my experience
S – somewhat my experience
N – not my experience

Some aspects of the personal faith experience are:

- ___ trust in God’s love for me and confidence that God cares for me and my loved ones.
- ___ a sense of God’s guidance and direction and a desire to obey God’s will for me.
- ___ an awareness of my own sinfulness, a nagging insistence that certain actions I have done are offensive to God.
- ___ a sense of the beauty and power of the universe, wonder and awe before God who made it all.
- ___ a sense of my own smallness and insignificance in relationship to God and to the universe.
- ___ a commitment to continue the work of Jesus in the world, to serve others as Jesus did.
- ___ strength to face the trouble, work, and frustration of each day because I know God will see me through.
- ___ a sense of anger and frustration with God for allowing a world full of suffering and evil.
- ___ a feeling of being oppressed by God, of being asked too much, of wanting to get out from under life’s burdens.
- ___ a big question mark, a feeling that I really don’t know God at all and don’t know how to get to know God.

Shared Faith with the Living Community

The shared faith of a Christian family, parish or community shows itself in the values, attitudes, priorities, and actions of the group. Some indicators of a shared Christian faith are listed below. Ask yourself: Do the people I know – my family and friends, the members of my church – really live these Christian values?

Mark the items: **V** – very evident values
S – some evidence
N – neglected values

The people in my life:

- believe in a loving God, trust in God's care for them.
- are willing to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.
- follow God's laws and the laws of the church.
- love and care for the underprivileged, the poor, the needy.
- respect life in all forms; respect people of all races and creeds.
- believe in the Bible as a source of spiritual truth and guidance.
- respect marriage and the family; value the gift of sex for marriage.
- hope for life after death with God.
- participate regularly in parish life: worship, study, ministry, and social activities.
- show a willingness to profess their faith openly and to defend it if necessary.

Formal Faith of the Institutional Church

Some characteristics of the formally structured faith of the Roman Catholic Church are listed below. Read each item and ask yourself: Is this a quality I think a church should have? How important to me is this aspect of the Catholic faith?

Mark the items: **V** – very important to me
S – somewhat important to me
N – not important to me

The Roman Catholic Church:

- is the original church founded by Jesus Christ.
- has unity and universality: one church all over the world under the leadership of the pope.
- has an unbroken 2000-year tradition dating back to Jesus and the apostles.
- has a definite system of doctrines and truths and a clear moral code.
- has a sacramental system with seven channels of grace for our journey of faith.
- celebrates the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- has sacramental forgiveness of sins.
- pays honor to Mary as Mother of God, and to the communion of saints.
- has religious communities of men and women dedicated to God and to church service.
- has an extensive system of education: grade schools, high schools, colleges, and universities.

Share some of the items in each of the surveys that you marked V and N with your sponsor/mentor or parent. Explain the reasons why you marked them as you did. Have sponsor/mentor or parent sign below when complete.

Sponsor/Mentor/Parent Signature: _____

Confirmation Sponsor Information 2009 - 2010

Prayerful consideration is to be made in choosing a sponsor, as there is responsibility. He/she is to be a positive example of the Catholic Christian faith by the way he/she lives and the values he/she embraces. A sponsor also promises to support the candidate by prayer.

The below guidelines for sponsors are according to *Catholic Church Law* and followed by the *Diocese of Bridgeport*:

1. A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. A sponsor is to be a practicing Catholic: Attends Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays, on Holy Days of Obligation, and receives the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance on a regular basis.
4. A sponsor, if married, was married according to the laws of the Church.
5. A sponsor is to support the candidate in the teaching of the faith, not only in Sacramental preparation, but into adult life.
6. A sponsor must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic in good standing and a registered member of their parish.
7. A sponsor **may not** be the candidate's parent, and parents **may not** act as proxies on the day of Confirmation.
8. Godparents, Grandparents, or older siblings are acceptable sponsors provided they meet the aforementioned criteria.
9. A sponsor who attends Saint Rose of Lima, needs to be a registered, practicing member. Call the rectory office for this information if needed.
10. A sponsor who is not a registered parishioner at Saint Rose must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from his/her own parish, signed and sealed by the Pastor.

Sponsor/Mentor Resource

Confirmation candidates are the future and promise of our Christian community. Sharing in the life of the parish community is a vital part of Confirmation preparation. Many people have touched the lives of each candidate.

- ✧ *Parents first gave the gift of faith at Baptism and continue as primary religious educators throughout their children's lives.*
- ✧ *Teachers have taught the scriptures and doctrine of the Catholic faith.*
- ✧ *Parishioners pray for our youth as support in their preparation.*
- ✧ *Many others have given candidates a vision of what it means to be in a Christian community by their examples of service.*

SPONSOR

“Sponsor” is the traditional name for the person who walks with a candidate on his/her Confirmation journey. *The sponsor works as a representative of the church, welcomes the candidate and helps the candidate to see his/her important role in the church community.* According to the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation there are three activities required of sponsors:

- ✧ *Sponsors bring candidates to receive the Sacrament.*
- ✧ *Present them to the Bishop for the anointing.*
- ✧ *Help them fulfill their baptismal promises.*

MENTOR

A mentor is an adult who works with the candidate during the preparation process in a more multi-faceted relationship.

- ✧ *A mentor should be someone the candidate looks up to as a person of faith-- someone you would like to become. Mentoring may involve teaching, guidance and/or counseling.*
- ✧ *A mentor has the responsibility of living the example, sharing their faith, and listening to the ideas and concerns of the candidate.*
- ✧ *Sponsors and mentors can be one in the same person. If your chosen sponsor does not live in the area, you will need a proxy (stand-in-sponsor) during the Confirmation ceremony--you may choose your mentor as proxy. A parent may not be a sponsor or proxy.*

In their relationships with a youth, both sponsors and mentors form a bridge into the Christian community. Their role is to . . .

- ✧ *Support the candidate in the process of becoming an active member of the church.*
- ✧ *To aid the candidate's growth in the Catholic faith.*
- ✧ *When done correctly, a faithful sponsor/mentor will help to open the candidate's heart to receive all the great gifts of the Holy Spirit and to be Christ's presence in the world.*

Sponsor Inquiry

As you begin your preparation period for Confirmation, one of the decisions you will pray about is who will be your Sponsor. There may be many people who enter your mind that you feel qualify for this position, or maybe you cannot think of anyone. Perhaps the person you would like to ask lives far away and would not be present for the Confirmation ceremony. Whatever your circumstance, for very good reasons, there are guidelines that need to be followed before your final decision is made.

Many Confirmation candidates ask the person closest to them to be their sponsor, only to find out, that they do not qualify and cannot obtain the required Sponsor Certificate. This puts the parish pastor in an awkward position, and can be embarrassing to the sponsor, and disappointing to the candidate. To avoid all this uncertainty, the St. Rose Confirmation Preparation students are asked to *first and foremost* pray for guidance regarding who they will choose, then start looking into what a sponsor's role is, and what qualifications a sponsor needs to fulfill this important role in the Confirmation ceremony.

First, a sponsor **must** be a practicing Catholic in good standing with their home parish. That means; they attend Mass regularly, they have been Confirmed in the Catholic faith, and if married, they were married within the rites of the Catholic church. They must be at least 16 years of age.

According to church law - sponsors can be grandparents, godparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, catechists, teachers or friends. *They cannot be your parents.* If the person you would like to have as sponsor cannot attend the ceremony, you can have them listed in the parish registry as sponsor, but elect to have a proxy stand in for your sponsor during the rehearsals and the ceremony itself. A proxy should meet the same requirements as a sponsor, but they do not need a sponsor certificate. The absent sponsor still needs a certificate. *A parent cannot be a proxy.*

To assist you in making this important decision – pray first for God's help in choosing your sponsor! Then using the form below, list the sponsor candidates and make note of all the requirements. Once completed, look it over and again ask for God's guidance in making your final choice. If you feel the Lord is leading you to ask a certain person – go for it! If you ask now, your chosen person will have two years to take care of any loose ends that, right now, might not enable them to qualify for a sponsor certificate. It will also give you another year to more fully connect with your sponsor and together come closer to Jesus. Many people have come back to the practice of their faith because they have been asked to be a sponsor! *The Sponsor Certificate is not needed at this time.*

If you have any questions, please consult the enclosed Confirmation Sponsor requirements, or speak to Janice in the Religious Education Office, 426-2333, ext. 4 for further assistance.

Sponsor Inquiry

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Names of Sponsor Possibilities | | | |
| Attends church weekly? | | | |
| Participates in parish activities? | | | |
| Leads a sacramental life? | | | |
| Has received all of their Catholic Sacraments? | | | |
| Is at least 16 years of age? | | | |
| Is a good role model? | | | |
| Observed marriage laws of Catholic church? | | | |

Catholic Living
To be Returned to Catechist by *March 31, 2010*

Student Name: _____

There are many people we associate with being Catholic. Others we associate with being Christian. And, of course, many other people we fail to connect with any religious affiliation. We simply view these people as “good.” How often have you wondered: What does being a good person have to do with believing in God, with being a Catholic, with going to Mass? This assignment will help you to understand how being Catholic relates to being Christian or to simply being a good person. You will learn more about the benefits and requirements associated with your membership in the Catholic church.

Mark each item listed below to indicate if it applies to:

- A** – all good people
- B** – good people who are good Christians
- C** – good Christians who are good Catholics

People who

- ___ tell the truth
- ___ call God “Father.”
- ___ believe there are three persons in God.
- ___ pray to Mary as God’s Mother.
- ___ celebrate the Lord’s Supper (Eucharist)
- ___ are against abortion.
- ___ love Jesus and follow his teachings.
- ___ believe in the real presence of Jesus in Eucharist.
- ___ respect the sexuality of themselves and others.
- ___ accept the pope as the head of their church.
- ___ celebrate seven sacraments.
- ___ take vows of poverty, obedience and celibacy.
- ___ worship a Supreme Being.
- ___ accept the Bible as the word of God.
- ___ pray.
- ___ obey lawful authority.
- ___ care for the poor, the sick, the lonely.
- ___ forgive those who offend them.
- ___ celebrate Mass on Sundays and holy days.
- ___ confess their sins to a priest.
- ___ love their families.
- ___ believe that Jesus rose from the dead.
- ___ celebrate Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
- ___ honor Peter, Francis, Augustine, Clare, Mary, Elizabeth as saints.
- ___ expect their priests to be celibate.

With your sponsor/mentor or parent, review the above statements and share any responses you disagree over. Together, list reasons below for belonging to the church.

- 1) Reasons for belonging to *any* church or religion.

2) Reasons for belonging to a *Christian* church.

3) Reasons for belonging to the *Catholic* Christian church.

What Do You Ask of the Church?

Indicate whether the items listed below are things you want from the church:

- V – very much
- S – somewhat or sometime
- N – not at all
- L – later

I ask the church:

- to provide holy and committed leaders who will help me to find God and to follow God's plan for me.
- to celebrate with me the important events in my life and in the lives of my loved ones.
- to teach me about God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who lives in the church.
- to build a beautiful place where I can worship God.
- to preserve over the centuries the truth that God has revealed through the prophets & Jesus.
- to pray with me when I am sick and dying.
- to help me raise my children well.
- to challenge me to be a good person.
- to help me to get to know Jesus and grow in my love for Him.
- to show me ways to serve the poor, the sick, the lonely, the unloved, the suffering; to support me in this service.
- to help me remember Jesus and live according to his teachings.
- to provide prayerful Eucharistic celebrations.
- to accept me as an adult member of the community and to make use of my gifts and talents.
- to help me prepare for Confirmation, Marriage, the Baptism of my children, and so on.
- to help me overcome my sinfulness and to celebrate God's forgiveness with me.
- to console me and pray with me when my loved ones die.
- to keep the idea of God alive in people's minds and hearts.
- to prepare me to serve in some kind of church ministry.
- to include me in the church's decision-making process in matters concerning education, finances, leadership, social events.

What Does the Church Ask of You?

Indicate your willingness to give the church each of the items listed below?

V – very willing to give

S – somewhat willing

N – not at all willing

I offer the church my presence

___ at Mass each Sunday and holy day.

___ at religious education classes.

___ at parish committee meetings.

___ at parish projects: bake sales, dinners, fund-raisers, etc.

___ at social and fun events in the parish

I offer the church my money

___ to support ministers: priests, sisters, deacons, DREs, teachers, catechists

___ to support educational programs

___ to build and maintain a church.

___ to care for the poor at home and abroad.

I offer the church my time and talent

___ to clean the church, paint, shovel, plant, etc.

___ to catechize younger children.

___ to plan liturgies, sing in the choir, etc.

___ to visit the sick and elderly.

___ to baby sit for parents so they can attend church functions.

___ to serve on parish committees, councils, boards.

___ to prepare and serve parish dinners; to help with parish events.

___ to be a lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, musician.

___ to coach, teach, tutor.

I offer the church my efforts to deepen my faith

___ by daily personal prayer.

___ by reading and praying scripture.

___ by full participation at Mass.

___ by frequent reception of the sacraments.

___ by joining a prayer group.

___ by continuing to learn more and more about my faith.

___ by attending retreats, days of prayer, etc.

___ by honestly trying to live a moral life.

With your sponsor/mentor or parent survey your personal talents and gifts. Talk about areas in parish life where these talents and gifts may be most applicable. Make plans and initiate contact with church personnel to begin using your talents and gifts where needed.

When completed, have sponsor/mentor/parent sign below.

Sponsor/Mentor/Parent Signature: _____

FAITH IN ACTION INFORMATION – 2009/2010

Service is a requirement for Confirmation, but as disciples of Christ, it is our lifelong commitment. Christ came to serve! His example and teachings encourage us to follow in His footsteps by looking for opportunities to help others.

“Christians, as disciples of Jesus, are called to a life of virtue.

Virtue is the habit of doing good that is achieved by the constant practice of unselfish actions.”

- ☺ By practicing the virtues of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, PRUDENCE, JUSTICE, FORTITUDE, and TEMPERANCE in your daily lives you are drawn closer in your relationship with God and others.
- ☺ You develop a deeper understanding of the person God has intended you to be, and you set the example for your friends to follow.
- ☺ Christ works through you by performing *selfless* acts for others, which helps you grow personally and in your faith.

When choosing your service projects, ask advice from your parents and other close family members. Since they know your interests and God-given talents, they may have good suggestions for you. Be creative, use your gifts to do more than one service. Enlist your parents' help early, as they will be the ones transporting you to and from these service opportunities.

Important: Since you are preparing to take on an *adult role* in the Church, **you** should be the one to take **full** responsibility for scheduling and completing your service hours.

To meet your Confirmation preparation requirements for service, you are expected to begin your life-long practice of *Faith in Action Service* with the minimum of ten hours completed by March 31, 2010 in at least *three* different activities. Seventh grade students not completing a minimum of ten hours will need to complete 25 hours during eighth grade. Any service activity you completed since July 1, 2009 will count towards this year's service. To help you keep track of your service hours, please use the attached *Faith in Action Service Log*.

The following is a list of suggestions for service opportunities in the area.

Remember: Your parents/guardians should be aware of your service activities and be present with you or have arranged adult supervision for you while you volunteer.

YOUR COMMUNITY

- ☺ Prepare dinner, baby-sit, or do chores, free of charge, at least one day a week for a family (*other than your own*) going through tough times.
- ☺ Organize young children you know into a club that will meet at least one hour each week for educational or religious activities.
- ☺ Visit an elderly or homebound person who lives in your neighborhood to chat, share a meal or help with household or yard duties that have become too difficult to handle.
- ☺ If you are unable to travel then you can make phone calls to the home-bound, make sandwiches for the hungry, write letters and cards to the sick, inmates, soldiers, or to children who are hospitalized.

NEWTOWN

ST. ROSE of LIMA PARISH

- ☺ Read the weekly Church Bulletin for opportunities
- ☺ Organize a group of students with musical or creative abilities to assist in preparing music, decorations, and readings for special class Masses.
- ☺ Become an active member of St. Rose Youth Group - help with community service efforts like leaf raking in the fall. Contact Youth Group Director, Rodd Blessey @ 426-6068 for more information.
- ☺ Organize a food, toy or clothing drive to benefit those in need.
- ☺ Become a mentor or tutor to young children who are struggling in school or in sports.
- ☺ Show your love for God's creation by organizing or participating in a community clean-up project. Visit an animal shelter and befriend a homeless dog or cat.
- ☺ Write a story for the *Newtown Bee* or *Danbury News-Times* about a non-profit organization or someone you know that sets a good example as a disciple of Christ.
- ☺ There are many opportunities to help set up and clean up after events held at Saint Rose Parish. Check the bulletin for upcoming events and details or call the Religious Education Office.
- ☺ Sign up to be a Religious Education Catechist's Aide.
- ☺ Call Mrs. Kristen Velsmid (Parish Nurse Coordinator) at 426-2607, Mrs. Joan Dwyer (Social Concerns Coordinator) @ 426-9337 or Sister Mary Ellen Genova (Outreach Coordinator) @ 426-2572, ext. 11 for opportunities to help needy parishioners.
- ☺ Call Eileen Gallo (Garden Angel Coordinator) @ 426-8223 to help with outside chores like weeding, raking, gardening.

NEWTOWN YOUTH SERVICES (203) 270-4335.

THE FAITH FOOD PANTRY

- ☺ Located in St. John's Episcopal Church on Washington Street, near Sandy Hook Center, for collection and sorting of food items only. Parental permission required. Call Lee Paulsen at 426-5604 for further details.

BRIDGEPORT

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY of the MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

1490 North Ave, Bridgeport Call Sr. Theresa Tremblay at 203-334-7000.

Sr. Theresa oversees a pre-school and rescue mission, serving recent immigrants and the poor. The mission provides food, clothing, and household items; money for bills, medicine, and rent; assistance to senior citizens; and educational help. Help sort items and organize rescue mission rooms.

- ☺ Assist Saint Rose Chapter of the Knights of Columbus with renovation projects.
- ☺ Help with **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas** parties for needy children and their families.
- ☺ Organize a food, toy, clothing, or household goods drive.

DANBURY

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF GREATER DANBURY: 797-1154 (Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m.) or visit the Center's web site at www.Volunteerindanburyarea.org.

INTERFAITH AIDS MINISTRY GIVING PANTRY

46 Main St. Danbury 9-5 pm weekdays. Call Gabriella Ambrose at (203) 748-4077.

☺ Work in the pantry 1-3 hours a day. Help collect canned food and personal care items.

POPE JOHN PAUL II CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE

33 Lincoln Ave, Danbury (203) 748-4077. Volunteer Coordinator -- 797-9300

☺ Help with mailing and gardening.

MONROE

SISTERS of the HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH at MARIAN HEIGHTS

1428 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe (Rte.111, near Rte. 34)

☺ Marian Heights is a religious community and infirmary that houses approximately 50 sisters. Call Sr. Ann Marie- to help in the infirmary, kitchen, and Saturday Bingo- 261-6595
Due to flu season, no volunteers during months of January and February.

SOUTHBURY

SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL

I-84 exit 14 (North on RTE 172 for 2.5 miles)

Call Volunteer Services @ 203-586-2497

TRUMBULL:

ST. JOSEPH'S MANOR/ HOME for the AGED

6448 Main St. Trumbull

Call Volunteer Coordinator- 264-6204

Select a service that speaks to your heart and spirit and GO FOR IT!!! Your experience will be whatever YOU make it. *Service should be selfless-- sometimes it is very difficult;a sacrifice.*
It will ALWAYS help you put your own life in perspective and help you to better understand the way Jesus WANTS you to live.

✦ The fruit of silence is *prayer*.

✦ The fruit of prayer is *faith*.

✦ The fruit of faith is *love*.

✦ The fruit of love is *service*.

✦ The fruit of service is *peace*.

FAITH- IN- ACTION PERSONAL SERVICE LOG – 2009/2010

Due by March 31, 2010

Student Name _____
(Please Print)

Jesus said, “Here I am among you as the one who serves.” Luke 22:27

Come, blessed of my Father,
take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me... Amen I say to you, as long as you did this for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.
Matthew 25:34-40

FAITH-IN-ACTION PLEDGE: I pray that while I am preparing for full membership in the Church, I will become more aware and understanding of the truth that our Church is a servant community following in the footsteps of its founder, Jesus Christ. While reaching out to others in need, I will ask Jesus Christ to be present and work through me to help them. I pledge to *continue* to perform service to those in my community *beginning* with these 10 hours, (7th grade students not completing a minimum of ten hours will need to complete 25 hours in eighth grade,) in at least three different service activities.

| Date | Number of Hours | Type of Service Performed | Signature of Service Recipient |
|------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
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Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Confirmation Preparation Sacramental Information 2009-2010

Saint Rose of Lima Religious Education Office
38 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470 Telephone (203) 426-2333 Fax (203) 426-8074

All information below is necessary to register and obtain sacramental certificates upon reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please do not leave any blanks. **Due date: December 15, 2009**

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____
(As it should appear on certificates)
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Birth Date _____ Birth City _____ Birth State _____
Confirmation Name (from Saint Project) _____ Catechist _____
(Confirmation Name can be changed next year if desired)

PARENT INFORMATION

Father: First Name _____ Mother: First Name _____
Mother: Maiden Name _____ Different Last Name _____

BAPTISM

Parish _____ City _____ State _____
Date _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) Certificate Verified by Rel Ed (Office Use Only)

FIRST COMMUNION/EUCHARIST

Parish _____ City _____ State _____
Date _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) Certificate Verified by Rel Ed (Office Use Only)

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor's Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name)
Sponsor's Parish _____
(City) (State) (Zip)

Sponsor Certificate is not due at this time