

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH JUNIOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE EXPERIENCE

## Commonly asked questions:

### 1. *How many hours do I have to complete?*

40

### 2. *When are these hours due by?*

Thursday, March 17, 2016

### 3. *Can I use hours I earned in Middle School or during my Freshman and/or Sophomore year?*

No, because our service program is tied to the Junior year Theology curriculum and there is a reflective element which requires precise memory of what you did, where you served, with whom you served, etc. Students may begin their service learning in the spring (March) of their sophomore year, and may complete the service learning the summer prior to their junior year or during their junior year (according to the requirements and due dates set forth in their Junior Theology class).

### 4. *Where can I serve my hours?*

We urge and expect you to serve those who are among the least fortunate in our community. Put another way, this would include those who have great difficulty helping themselves, such as children, the elderly, the disabled, and the poor. In the past, students have served in soup kitchens, worked at homeless shelters and hospitals, volunteered at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, helped to build housing for the poor, and volunteered their time and talents with the Special Olympics, MDA, or similar agencies.

**Tutoring hours can be acceptable, but each situation must be approved by the Christian Service Coordinator or the Junior Theology teacher, as the purpose of this service learning is to stretch beyond your "normal" comfort zone. All hours must be of an "interactive" nature.**

### 5. *Where can I go to get service ideas or to get help in getting started?*

A good place to begin is by seeing Mr. Bonham, Mrs. Hubbard, or Mrs. Abdo in the Campus Ministry Office sometime during a free period, or before or after school. Your Junior Theology teacher is also another good resource! You are encouraged to be creative with your thinking!

### 6. *Why does MSJ call this "Christian Service" rather than "Community Service?"*

Community Service can sometimes carry a negative connotation of "hours I am being forced to do", or in the case of someone who has to complete community service as restitution for committing a crime. Our goal here is to help you see beyond Community Service as "forced volunteering." We see Service to others as something Christ calls us to do each and every day. Our focus for Service is based on Scripture's Matthew 25 in which Jesus challenges: "Whatever you do for the least of your Brothers, you do for me." We provide for you this structured learning environment because the Lord knows we sometimes fall short of what we could do, and can use a little motivation and a reminder of "the big picture". The hours requirement, the paper work involved, and the reflection papers that will be completed throughout the year will hopefully help you to see beyond a "just get the hours done" attitude.

### 7. *What happens if I do not do these hours?*

Quite simply, you will not be able to move on to senior year until you complete the 40 hours and the necessary paperwork required for successful completion of the Junior Service Learning requirement.

### 8. *When should I get started?*

Junior year can be a very busy time, so the sooner you begin... the better!