

# Freshmen Service Project – revised for Class of 2015

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*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Jesuit education means a lot more than striving for excellence in the classroom, the athletic field or the stage: it gives us a broad range of experiences to encounter God and, through this encounter, become *Men for Others*.

Our program is not just about service, it is about service-learning. As a Catholic and Jesuit school we want students to reflect on their service, to gain understanding about people's lives, and witness how our society does and does not take care of its most vulnerable members. Therefore, our goals are for each person in our school family to understand the responsibility of putting faith into action, -experience the joy of serving Christ in the needy and poor among us, and follow Christ's call to build a world grounded in faith and justice. Consequently, we ask our students to willingly accept God's call to serve others and to develop the habit of living virtuously, committed to serving others with their families.

The main theme of the freshman service project is *Cura Personalis*: care of the whole person. Each freshman must choose a 15-hour service project to complete before his sophomore year. **Freshmen are encouraged to visit nursing homes and work with the elderly for their service projects.** Other forms of service are also applicable, but must be pre-approved. Be aware that that this service project can only begin after the start of the school year.

We also encourage family members to join their sons for at least five hours of service. The family component in developing a "habit of service" is essential to the freshmen service project. We invite freshmen to choose a project that will enrich themselves and their families.

When we say "service with family" we mean that at least one family member must participate with the student, as both volunteer at an organization or a service-oriented event. "Family member" can be defined as mom/step-mom, dad/step-dad, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, or grandparents.

## The Process and Requirements:

- Each freshman must think, pray and discern with his family the best place to complete his service project. All projects must be submitted to and approved by the Service Director in the Pastoral Ministry Office before beginning in the Fall Semester. Pre-approval is not necessary if the project is chosen from our database (listed on our website).
- Each freshman will complete his Service Project by the end of the third quarter of his freshman year and will **submit a Reflection Paper to his Theology I teacher by April 5, 2012.**
- Reflection papers are worth one quiz grade. Please take reflection papers seriously.

## Reflection Questions

- *What was your experience in planning your Freshman Service Project? What new insight did you learn about yourself in the process? Did you learn something new about the larger community?*
- *In what ways did you see this service project consistent with your Faith formation and your understanding of the call to be a Disciple of Jesus? What new insight have you learned about being a Man for Others?*

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- *How was your experience of doing service with your family? What was your family's experience of the Service Project?*

Should there be questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Service Director via email, [rdsouza@strakejesuit.org](mailto:rdsouza@strakejesuit.org) or by phone 713-448-8437.