

Content Standard

Students in the Diocese of Bridgeport will understand that they are created in the image and likeness of the Triune God, and thus are made for community. They will appreciate that the communal love of the Holy Trinity is the source of human community and that of the Church, the Body of Christ. They will learn that by virtue of their Baptism into Christ, who came to serve, and not be served, they too, are responsible for a life of service. This service encompasses life in the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, diocese, civic, national, and global.

Rationale

The human vocation is to embody the image of God by being transformed into the image of Jesus (*CCC 1877*). Since Jesus' life was, and continues to be, one of service, "For the Son of Man did come not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (*Mk. 10:45*), so our lives are for service. Service to others is also a response to our human and Baptismal vocations (*CCC 1879*). Because the human virtues are rooted in the theological virtues, they are the foundation of Christian moral activity and service. Thus, Christian service to others is concretely realized by sharing the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

- ❖ By faith, man freely commits his entire self to God. Service of and witness to faith are necessary for salvation. "Faith apart from works is dead."
(*James 2:26*) (*CCC 1814-1816*).
- ❖ Hope inspires us to do the Father's will. Hope enables us to persevere. It purifies our activity, sustains us in trial, keeps us from discouragement, and preserves us from selfishness (*CCC 1820 – 1821*).
- ❖ Love is the source and the goal of Christian practice. In his new commandment (*Jn.15:12*), Jesus asks us to love as he does, (even our enemies), to make ourselves the neighbors of all people, and to love the poor as Christ himself (*CC1825*).

We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace God has given us
(*Romans 12:4-6*).

Performance Standards

1. Students will learn that "Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers 'together with all their household.'... These families were islands of Christian life in an unbelieving world" (CCC 1655).
2. Students will understand that the home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment. Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous—even repeated—forgiveness, and, above all, divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life" (CCC 1657).
3. Students will understand how each member of the Catholic community is called by Baptism to live out the mission of the Church. The Holy Spirit is "the principal agent of the whole of the Church's mission...the mission of Christ, who was sent to evangelize the poor" (CCC 852).
4. Students will appreciate that the Virgin Mary, "by her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit...is the Church's model of faith and charity" (CCC 967).
5. Students will recognize the contributions of the saints throughout the ages, by prayer and service, to the well being of all members of society, especially the poor.
6. Students will understand that community service is prayer, faith, and love in action.

Grade Level Competencies

By the end of Pre K-K, students will be able to:

1. Talk about how we belong to a family just as Jesus did.
2. Recognize the responsibility to care for God's creation.
3. Share ways they can help others in their families, and class, and neighborhood.
4. Discuss Bible stories that show how people help others.
5. Know that Jesus wants us to care about others.
6. Act out stories about Mary's willingness to say "Yes" to what God asked her to do.
7. Demonstrate respect and reverence for the Bible as a holy book.

By the end of Grade One, students will be able to:

1. Discuss how they became members of the Church community through Baptism.
2. Listen to stories of saints who served the needs of the poor.
3. Recognize ways adults serve the needs of others in their families and at school.
4. Discuss the creation story to show ways to appreciate and care for the gifts of creation.
5. Recognize that God gives us gifts and talents to share with others.

By the end of Grade Two, students will be able to:

1. Learn that Mary became the Mother of God at the Annunciation.
2. Realize that once they have received First Communion, they participate more fully as members of the Christian community.
3. Be familiar with Gospel stories where Jesus and his followers demonstrate love and service to others.
4. Read Gospel stories showing love for others in action.
5. Plan and participate in a service activity.
6. Discuss ways people in our parish provide a life of service to others.

By the end of Grade Three, students will be able to:

1. Understand that loving our neighbor means to respect the rights of others and to share our gifts and talents.
2. Know that we can bring hope and comfort to others by our kind words and actions.
3. Appreciate the gifts God has given them and their responsibility to use them.
4. Learn how to become a peacemaker in their family and with their classmates.
5. Give examples of how their parish community reaches out in service to others.
6. Become familiar with the ways clergy and religious serve the Christian community.
7. Know that the lives of the saints show us how to follow Jesus.
8. Tell about a saint who is a model of service.
9. Describe Mary as the perfect disciple of Jesus.
10. Begin to understand the concept of stewardship as a response to God's many gifts to us.
11. Describe the people who make up the Church community as the pope, clergy, religious, and lay people.
12. Recognize that the Church continues Jesus' ministries of community, word, worship, and service.
13. Know that God loves and respects us so much that he likes to have us help him in his work.

By the end of Grade Four, students will be able to:

1. Learn, through the Visitation, Mary's example of how to willingly respond to God's call to help others.
2. Demonstrate respect for all creation, especially living things.
3. Identify and discuss ways of imitating how Jesus showed love for others.
4. Discuss how we can live out Jesus' Great Commandment, "To love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself."
5. Learn that in contrast to the practices of the world, Jesus' community lives in a spirit of selflessness and love, and is marked by a spirit of humility and love.
6. Understand that the Christian family is the basic unit of the church community and needs to be respected and cared for.
7. Define responsible stewardship as care of personal belongings, public property, and God's creation.
8. Demonstrate that as members of the Church we are called to be examples of Jesus' love to others.

By the end of Grade Five, students will be able to:

1. Relate Mary's sensitivity to the needs of others at the Wedding Feast of Cana to the call to respond to the Word of God.
2. Study the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper (especially in ***John 13-18***) as a model of the Christian understanding of community and service.
3. Discuss how the Eucharist is the source and goal of all Christian communities.
4. Study the vocations of Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Religious Life in response to Jesus' call to service.
5. As part of the Baptismal commitment, understand that Christian laypersons are called to bring Christ to the world through their professions and occupations.
6. Research how Jesus' identification of himself with the "least of my brothers" (***Matt. 25***), is lived out through parish and diocesan outreach programs to the poor and suffering.
7. Identify examples of God using human effort to build his Kingdom of justice, peace, and mercy on earth.

By the end of Grade Six, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate respect and cooperation for leadership within a community group.
2. Demonstrate respect for those being served because Christ resides in all people.
3. Recognize the works of leadership and service of Old Testament figures.
4. Discuss ways in which individuals, families, and parish communities can more fully live out Jesus' mandate to welcome the stranger.
5. Examine how love and justice are lived through the observance of the Ten Commandments.
6. Participate in prudent community service activities supporting life issues and care for the environment.
7. Recognize the importance of respecting the dignity of all people, especially the physically and emotionally challenged.
8. Research the contribution of Christian art and music to the Church and the world.
9. Discuss how the diverse cultural experiences of our faith strengthen and enrich our Universal Church.
10. Identify sin and selfishness as the cause of local, national, and global injustice.

By the end of Grade Seven, students will be able to:

1. Know that as Mary brought Jesus into the world at the Nativity, we bring Christ to the world through service.
2. Know that the pope and the bishops are the authentic teachers endowed with the authority of Christ to guard and preach the faith to believers and to put it into practice.
3. Know the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and how they are examples of putting faith into action.
4. Discuss the difficulties and challenges in today's culture for bringing hope and love to the suffering.
5. Identify men and women who have responded to God's call to holiness through their service to others.
6. Understand that it is only with the gift of Christ's grace and practice of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, that they become true witnesses of Christ.
7. Live responsibly as stewards of God's creation, respecting life, themselves, and their environment by willingly sharing their time and God-given talents with the school, parish, and community.
8. Work together for peace and justice by cooperatively choosing and completing a service project.

By the end of Grade Eight, students will be able to:

1. Know that the power of the Holy Spirit is evident in the service of Church leaders and saints.
2. Understand that faith, which flows from prayer, must be lived through good works.
3. Exercise the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Discuss how Jesus' example of forgiveness and healing in the Gospels are a sign of hope and a mandate to imitate him.
5. Understand that the Church has a special mission to help the poor and has fulfilled this through the activities of local and global organizations.
6. Examine the importance of ecumenical cooperation in light of every Christian's Baptismal call to service.
7. Practice leadership and sharing of responsibilities of planning and carrying out service-oriented projects.
8. Know that the strengthening from the Holy Spirit, imparted through the sacrament of Confirmation, enables them to live a life of service.
9. Know that in the midst of conflict and evil, God raises up men and women of faith who work for peace, justice, and human dignity to further the Kingdom of God on earth.
10. Evaluate issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy in their local, national, and international communities.