



Peoria Notre Dame High School
Christian Service Program (CSP)
Student Handbook

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

7 CORPORAL WORKS

Feed the Hungry.
Give Drink to the Thirsty.
Clothe the Naked.
Shelter the Homeless.
Welcome the Stranger.
Visit the Sick and Imprisoned
Bury the Dead.

7 SPIRITUAL WORKS

Counsel the Doubtful.
Instruct the Ignorant.
Admonish the Sinner.
Comfort the Sorrowful.
Forgive Injuries.
Bear Wrongs Patiently.
Pray for the Living and Dead.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

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Revised August 2023

A program rooted in the Gospel Message and Catholic Tradition

Any Questions? Email csp@pndhs.org

RATIONALE FOR THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM:

The Christian Service Program (CSP) is founded on the **MESSAGE AND MINISTRY** of Jesus. Throughout his public life Jesus preached the message: "love one another as I have loved you." Not only did Jesus speak this message of love but also His ministry brought this message to life in others. He reached out to all people with this love, yet he touched in a distinct way the poor, the sick, the oppressed, the weak, and the needy. We, as disciples and Christ's hands in the present age, are called to reach out to all people in love and to assist those in need.

Essential to the Gospel message and to the teachings of the Catholic Church are the beliefs in the dignity and worth of each person and the calling of Christians to respond to those in need. The Statement of Mission for Peoria Notre Dame High School echoes the need for our students to both learn and serve. Thus the Christian Service Program was created as a "service-learning" program—an integrated and educational opportunity that enables students to carry their ministry beyond the school's walls. The CSP challenges our students to learn about their community and its needs, and then to respond. Knowledge of our community and its institutions and the skills learned at project sites combine to enhance what is learned in the classroom setting. The Christian Service Program encourages students to reach outside themselves in the Spirit of Christ. Through Religion classes, students are instructed in the teachings of the Church and the message of the Gospel. The CSP is designed to complement this learning with hands-on experience that aids students in recognizing a broader perspective of community and their unique roles in building Christian community. It challenges students through an experience of service to others so as to live more concretely the faith passed on to us through Jesus Christ. The CSP fosters the building of Christ's Kingdom by enabling students to overcome fears, prejudices, and stereotypes associated with different racial and ethnic groups, the poor, the mentally and physically disabled, and the elderly.

"The experience of Christian community leads naturally to service. Christ gives His people different gifts not only for themselves but also for others. Each must serve others for the good of all. The Church is a servant community in which those who hunger are to be filled; the ignorant are to be taught; the homeless to receive shelter; the distressed consoled; the sick cared for; the oppressed set free—all so that men and women may more fully realize their human potential and more readily enjoy life with God now and eternally."
(To Teach as Jesus Did #28)

Service opportunities exist to accommodate the interests and gifts of all students. Parish, school, and community projects enable students to serve those in need through a rich diversity of opportunities. The basic guidelines for a good project are the **CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**—traditional Catholic actions of service—undertaken through direct **person-to-person interaction**.

Christian service enables young people to move beyond self-centered concern to a Christ-like selflessness and other-centered love. Students develop a sense of citizenship and appreciate the responsibility to make a positive contribution for the common good. A service project also encourages students to broaden their knowledge of the larger community and to pursue a particular career interest. Most importantly, service aids students in developing a sense of ministry to others following the example of Jesus.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CSP AND PROJECTS

- 1) Students are required to complete a minimum of 100 hours of service through the CSP prior to graduation. Transfer students, after consultation with the CSP Director, will have the number of required hours reduced. Exchange students are exempted from the CSP requirement.

CSP Hours requirements for new/ transfer students

Freshmen: 100 hours regardless of what semester they come in.
Sophomores entering first semester: 75 hours.
Sophomore entering at second semester: 63 hours
Junior entering at first semester: 50 hours
Junior entering at second semester: 43 hours
Senior entering either semester: 25 hours (one project)

- 2) Students are not required to complete 25 hours per year. The 100 hours may be completed over the four years as best suit the student and his/her family. Students are encouraged to begin the CSP early in their time at PND.
- 3) The CSP requires that a **20-hour minimum commitment be devoted to each project**. No project will be counted toward the requirement unless it comprises at least 20 hours by the completion of the project. *Projects of less than 20 hours per year can accumulate and receive credit over a number of years if the student continues similar service at that site.* The entire 100 hours can be completed through one project if desired, or any combination of 20+ hour projects can be used to meet the required 100 hours. For example: 1 project of 100 hours, 2 projects consisting of 50 hours each or 5 projects consisting of 20 hours each. ****The one exception to this is PND CSP Community Projects. Throughout the year, the CSP director will email out CSP community projects. These may be shorter, one-time projects, but will still count toward the 100 hours. Registration forms should be filled out for each of these projects.**
- 4) Service projects can be completed during the summer and/or school year.
- 5) Incoming freshmen may begin working toward their 100 hours once they graduate from 8th grade. All projects must follow the CSP guidelines as laid out in the CSP handbook and must be registered with the proper forms.
- 6) All projects must be registered by the student and approved by the CSP Director 5 days before the project is started. This is to ensure that the project will count for CSP hours. Failure to complete the proper registration may result in credit not being given for the hours previously worked.
- 7) The primary guidelines for acceptance require that every project demonstrate a connection to at least one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. Each project should bring the student into **direct service of one or more persons in need**. Projects that fail to demonstrate these criteria will be rejected. *PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN VOLUNTEERISM AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE:*
- Volunteerism:** *Specific short term acts done to benefit individuals or organizations without financial gain.*
- Christian Service:** *Direct personal interaction with the recipients of repeated actions, done in the spirit of and related to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, without financial gain.*
- 8) PND students are **limited to 50 hours of athletics**. Only the official beginning and ending of daily events is to be counted. Set up and clean up times do not count toward CSP hours.
- 9) Senior projects end on May 1. All other projects must end by May 31 of each academic year. Continuing projects must be re-registered again in order to receive credit.
- 10) All completed projects must be evaluated by the student on the appropriate Evaluation Form.
- 11) Students may not receive monetary compensation for service projects. This includes money, gifts, tuition remission, etc..
- 12) Generally, CSP projects are not completed for family members. The CSP asks the student to broaden the concept of neighbor to include those outside of friends/family (some exceptions may be made with the prior approval of the CSP Director).

- 13) Generally, a project supervisor should not be a family member of the student involved in the project. A project supervisor should be a responsible adult capable of adequately supervising a minor.
- 14) Parents should be involved in selecting a suitable project and monitor to ensure that the student is well supervised.
- 15) Students should arrange their service projects on their own by contacting a parish/organization/agency directly. When contacting a parish, the student should find projects that can be readily identified with the Corporal and/or Spiritual Works of Mercy, and look for projects that would bring the student into direct personal contact with a person(s) in need. **Projects that are more properly regarded as supportive of activities whose long range objective is a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy, such as decorating, setting-up, cleaning-up for a fundraiser; ticket taking; filing or answering phones; working a concession stand; maintenance or secretarial work; etc. ARE UNACCEPTABLE.** Some project suggestions are included on later pages in this handbook. Students should also contact the CSP Director for additional information or suggestions.
- 16) The CSP Director's primary responsibilities include maintaining accurate records on each student's status in the CSP; educating, motivating, and supporting students involved in the CSP; promoting and advertising service opportunities; and acting as a resource person for students and parents requesting information on the CSP.
- 17) Students will be able to check their CSP hours by logging into FACTS and/or contacting the CSP director.
- 18) Students who complete at least 150 hours will receive special recognition at their Senior Honors Assembly.
- 19) Even though supervisors are responsible for keeping an accurate record of student service hours to report to the CSP Director, it is suggested that the student also keep a log of hours served.
- 20) Whenever a student, parent, or supervisor becomes aware of inappropriate behavior at a project site, the CSP Director should be contacted immediately so that appropriate action may be undertaken.

CHECKLIST FOR A GOOD CSP PROJECT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incorporates one or more of the Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Can be seen as furthering the MESSAGE AND MINISTRY of JESUS.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brings the student into direct personal service of another person or persons.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provides an educational experience for the participating student that will challenge the student beyond what is known and comfortable.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is easily verified by a supervisor and thoroughly evaluated by the student.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is well supervised.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leaves the student with the knowledge that another person's life has been enhanced due to his/her efforts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consists of a 20-hour minimum commitment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meets all CSP guidelines.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has been registered and approved before it is started.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is in an area of interest to the student.</p> |
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CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Peoria Notre Dame High School includes successful completion of the Christian Service Program as a **graduation requirement**.

1. A student's diploma is held until successful completion of CSP hours has been verified by the CSP Director.
2. No graduation date will be placed on the student's transcript until successful completion of the CSP has been verified.
3. No final and official student transcript will be released until successful completion of the CSP has been verified.
4. Once the CSP has been successfully completed, the student's diploma and final and official transcript may be released. The graduation date will be the same as the actual graduation ceremony for that class.
5. Students who have not successfully completed the CSP by the graduation ceremony may participate in the ceremony only if he/she has a plan to finish their hours and are in close contact with the Principal and CSP Director.

Christian Service Program (CSP) Student/Parent Acknowledgement

(To be signed by each student and a parent/guardian)

I understand that completion of the Christian Service Program (CSP) is a requirement for Graduation. I understand that I will need to complete 100 hours of service during my time at Peoria Notre Dame (hours will be prorated for transfer students).

Student Signature

I understand that the completion of the Christian Service Program (CSP) is a requirement for Graduation. I understand that participation in acceptable projects is at the discretion of the student and parent(s), and PND assumes no responsibility for accident or injury involving the student while participating in a project outside of school time and not supervised by school staff. I

Parent/Guardian Signature

DESCRIPTION OF CSP FORMS

All forms described below are available on campus in the Main East Hallway. Papers may also be printed at home from the website as well.

All completed forms should be returned to PND or emailed to the CSP Director.

REGISTRATION FORM (ONLINE):

Before a project is started; this form is completed and submitted for approval.

Please complete each section and include information to contact your supervisor.

***Only students with rejected projects are contacted. Once a registration form has been returned to the Director, if a negative reply has not been received within 5 days, the project has been approved and may be started.**

PARISH VERIFICATION FORM (PINK):

This form is to be used only by those students involved in a project at a Catholic parish or another church.

When a student has registered this type of project, he/she will carry this form to each activity at the parish/church that will receive credit toward the project. At the conclusion of each activity, a brief description of the activity is recorded and an adult supervisor records the number of hours and signs the form. When a student has accumulated the (minimum 20) hours of credit, the form should be returned to the CSP Director.

ATHLETIC VERIFICATION FORM (PURPLE):

This form is to be used only by those students involved in a project involving assistant coaching or working in an athletic camp. When a student has registered this type of project, he/she will carry this form to each practice or game that will receive credit toward the project. At the conclusion of each individual activity, a brief description of the activity is recorded and an adult supervisor records the number of hours and signs the form. When a student has accumulated the (minimum 20) hours of credit, the form should be returned to the CSP Director.

EVALUATION FORM (BLUE):

This form is completed at the conclusion of each project. The student evaluates the project, the experience, and the CSP. Student and parent sign this form. Parent and student are asked for constructive criticism about a project and the CSP.

SERVICE PROJECTS CATEGORIES

The Christian Service Program allows for projects in the following areas:

Service to the PARISH/CHURCH

Students are encouraged to become involved in projects within their parish, church, or parish elementary school. Opportunities will vary from parish to parish depending on size, parish needs, and location. Some general ideas include liturgical ministry, religious education assistants, tutors, after-care programs, food pantry programs/SHARE, youth ministry, service/mission trips.

Fundraising, maintenance, ticket taking, concession stand, set-up/clean-up activities, and clerical work (filing and answering phones) DO NOT QUALIFY AS CSP PROJECTS.

1. Contact your pastor, pastoral associate, DRE, principal, former teachers, and other parish staff for specific opportunities.
2. Students may be involved in projects in other parishes, but should first look to get involved with the opportunities available within their own parish.
3. Non-Catholic students may be involved in similar projects within their churches, synagogues or temples.
4. CSP project may not be done to repay the parish for tuition remission.

Service to the COMMUNITY

Students may be involved in a variety of Greater Peoria area opportunities. A general guideline for agencies and organizations are those assisting the elderly, the poor, the mentally and physically handicapped, the illiterate, and the ill. Projects outside the Peoria area are acceptable, but students should speak to the CSP Director about such a project in advance.

Service to the SCHOOL

Students may be involved in specific activities at Peoria Notre Dame. The list of acceptable projects in this category has been purposely kept short to encourage students to engage in Parish and Community projects that challenge them to move beyond what is familiar.

Athletic Projects

Students involved in athletic camps and coaching situations should function as **assistants** to the coach or camp director, not as the primary coach. It is for the safety of both the high school students and for the individuals involved in the athletic situation that an adult be the primary supervisor to the participants. High school students are **limited to 50 hours of athletics**. Only the official beginning and ending of the daily event is to be counted. Set up and clean up times are not part of the credited hours. Likewise, any training necessary for the student volunteers will not be credited.

Independent Projects

This category covers all projects that meet special needs outside of the above categories. A project in this area requires a detailed written explanation of the project, a rationale for the project, and a request from a parent. If a student is considering an Independent Project, he/she should see the CSP Director to discuss the possibility. These projects are exceptional and are treated as such by the CSP Director.

The next several pages of the handbook include specific examples in each category. The school projects listed are the only acceptable ones at the current time. The Parish and Community listings are not exhaustive. Those listed are sites where PND students have completed projects and have had successful experiences.

PARISH PROJECTS

The following list includes those parishes that directly support Peoria Notre Dame High School. Other Catholic parishes in the Greater Peoria area may also act as sponsors for a CSP project. Non-Catholic students are encouraged to serve in their own churches/synagogues or seek a project at a contributing Catholic parish.

St. Ann Parish

1010 S. Louisa
Peoria 61605
676-0726

Immaculate Conception

418 N. Center St.
Lacon, IL 61540
674-5072

St. Mary Cathedral

607 N. E. Madison
Peoria 61603
671-1568

Sacred Heart Parish

504 Fulton St.
Peoria 61602
673-6317

Holy Family Parish

3720 N. Sterling
Peoria 61615-4229
688-3427
School: 688-2931

St. Bernard Parish

509 E. Kansas Ave.
Peoria 61603
682-1221

St. Mark Parish

113 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria 61606
673-1263
School: 676-7131

St. Philomena Parish

3300 N. Twelve Oaks Dr.
Peoria 61604
682-8642
School: 685-1208

St. Vincent de Paul

6001 N. University St.
Peoria 61614
691-3602
School: 691-5012

St. Thomas Parish

904 E. Lake Ave.
Peoria Heights 61614
688-3446 or 688-3447
School: 685-2533

St. Jude Parish

150-8 W. Wilhelm Rd.
Dunlap 61525
243-7811

St. Monica Parish

303 Campanile Dr.
East Peoria 61611
694-2061

St. Anthony Parish

2525 Skyway Rd.
Bartonville 61607
697-0645 or 697-0627

St. Joseph Parish

303 S. Seventh
Pekin 61554
347-6108
School: 347-7194

Sacre Coeur Parish

301 Roosevelt
Creve Coeur 61611
699-8223

St. Edward Parish

1216 N. 6th St.
Chillicothe 61523
274-3809
School: 274-2994

St. Mary Parish

9910 W. Knox St.
Kickapoo/Edwards 61528
691-2030
School: 691-3015

St. Mary Parish

415 W. Chatham St.
Metamora 61548
367-4407
School: 367-2528

St. Mary Parish

R.R. 2
Metamora 61548
383-4460

Blessed Sacrament Parish

261 E. Greenwood
Morton 61550
266-9721
School: 263-8442

St. Patrick Parish

705 E. Jefferson
Washington 61571
444-3524
School: 444-4345

Diocese of Peoria

412 NE Madison
Peoria 61603
671-1550

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The following organizations/agencies/institutions are **examples** for helping in the search for an approved CSP project. This list is not exhaustive and there are others that do sponsor acceptable projects.

Contact the CSP Director to inquire about a potential project that is not listed. **All are reminded that just because an organization/agency/institution is listed does not mean that any activity done for it is an acceptable project. Care should be taken to ensure that the activity meets the CSP guidelines and the checklist found on pages 3 and 4.**

Students should contact the organization/agency/institution directly and speak to the Volunteer Coordinator or a person in a similar position.

****Please also look through the CSP Possible Project List on the website****

HOSPITALS and HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS:

Heartland Community Clinic
600 NE Monroe
Peoria 61603
673-9242

Methodist Medical Center
221 NE Glen Oak Drive
Peoria 61636
672-5656

Children's Hospital
530 NE Glen Oak Dr.
Peoria 61637
655-7171

Pekin Community Hospital
Court and 14th
Pekin 61554
347-1151

Proctor Community Hospital
5409 N. Knoxville Ave.
Peoria 61614
691-1000 ex. 3074

St. Jude Midwest Affiliate
221 NE Glen Oak Dr.
Peoria 61636
672-5983

St. Francis Medical Center
530 NE Glen Oak Dr.
Peoria 61637
655-2000

Peoria Health Department
1215 N. Sheridan Rd.
Peoria 61606
677-6790

Susan Komen Center
4911 Executive Dr.
Peoria 61614
693-2332

ELDER CARE:

Rosewood Care Center
1500 W. Northmoor Rd.
Peoria 61614
691-2200

Lutheran Hillside Village
7019 N. Galena Rd.
Peoria 61614
692-4600

Buehler Home
3415 N. Sheridan Rd.
Peoria 61604
685-6236

St. Joseph Home
2223 W. Heading Ave.
Peoria 61604
673-7425

St. Augustine Manor
1301 NE Glendale
Peoria 61603
674-7069

Galena Park Nursing H.
5533 N. Galena Rd.
Peoria Heights 61614
682-5428

**There are many other nursing homes and elder care facilities-contact one near your home or the school.*

DIRECT SERVICE to the POOR, HUNGRY, ILLITERATE or HOMELESS:

Missionaries of Charity Peoria Rescue Mission
506 Hancock St 601 SW Adams
Peoria 61603 Peoria 60602
674-7160 676-2600

American Red Cross 311 W John H Gwynn Jr Ave Peoria 61605 674-0392	Boys & Girls Club 2703 W. Grinnell Peoria 61605 637-3673	Carver Center 710 W. Third St. Peoria 674-9219	Children's Home 2130 N Knoxville Peoria 61603 685-1047
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Common Place 514 S. Shelly Peoria 61605 674-3315 674-1131	Family House 1509 Knoxville Peoria 61603 685-5300	Neighborhood House 1020 Matthew St. Peoria 61605	Friendship House 800 NE Madison Peoria 61603 671-5200
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Habitat for Humanity 813 NE Madison St. Peoria 61603 676-6729	South Side Mission 311 Olive St. Peoria 61602 676-4604	South Side Office of Concern 1316 SW Adams Peoria 61602-1702 674-7310
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Tri-County Urban League 317 S. McArthur Hwy. Peoria 61605 673-7474	Heart of Illinois Harvest 693-0876 or 495-5265	World Starvation Council 676-6842
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SERVICE TO PHYSICALLY or MENTALLY DISABLED:

Heart of Illinois Special Recreation 8727 N. Pioneer Rd. Peoria 61614 691-1929	Central Illinois Riding Therapy 305 Neumann Drive East Peoria 61611 699-3710
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Community Workshop and Training Center 3215 N. University Peoria 61604 686-3300	Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center 320 E. Armstrong Ave. Peoria 61603 672-6330
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Peoria Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) 1913 W. Townline Rd Peoria 61601 691-3800	March of Dimes-Heart of Illinois 6919 N. Knoxville Peoria 61614 689-9712
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United Cerebral Palsy
320 E. Armstrong
Peoria 61603
672-6325

Multiple Sclerosis Society
1703-B. W. Candletree Dr.
Peoria 61614
693-0600

Muscular Dystrophy Assoc
10 N. Main
East Peoria 61611
698-3162

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Alzheimers Association
681-1100

American Cancer Society
688-3488

American Lung Association
688-8212

Arthritis Foundation
682-6600

Big Brothers/Sisters
637-1771

Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
contact your local troop

Center for Prevention
of Abuse 691-0551

Common Place
674-3315

Community Action Agency
671-3900

Crittenton Care/Counseling
674-4125

Forest Park Nature Center
686-3360

Good Will Industries
682-1113

Lakeview Museum
686-7000

Lutheran Social Services
671-0300

Pekin Park District
347-7275

Pekin Public Library
347-7111

Peoria Animal Welfare
Shelter 494-8911

Peoria Heights Public Library
682-5578

Peoria Park District
682-1200
Wildlife Prairie Park
676-0998

Peoria Public Library
497-2000
YMCA
671-2700

Teens Need Teens Hotline
692-1766
YWCA
674-1167

CSP FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. **Can I contribute all my hours to the same place?** *Yes. We encourage every student to try a variety of different projects, but you may finish all your hours at one location. The only exception to this idea is within the area of athletics. The maximum number of hours any one person may contribute to athletic events is 50.*
2. **If the project I'm working on now doesn't fulfill the minimum number of hours required per project (20), do I lose those hours?** *No. Those hours are "banked" and are not counted toward the total 100 until that number reaches 20. A student may go back to the same agency and contribute more hours at a later date. All those hours will be added together.*
3. **Why do I have to turn in my registration form five days before the project starts and what happens if I turn it in late?** *Five days give the CSP coordinator a chance to read through your project and contact you if any information is missing or if the project doesn't fulfill the requirements of the program. This time also allows the CSP coordinator to send the project supervisor information about his or her responsibilities. If the registration form is late, one of two things may happen: one, the hours worked prior to the form being submitted may not be counted; or two, the project may be disallowed all together. Please get the forms in on time.*
4. **What happens if I don't finish my hours before I graduate?** *There are several things that may occur. The student's diploma and transcripts are withheld until the hours are completed. The student will not be able to go through the graduation ceremony if the service program is not completed.*
5. **Are there any special awards or recognitions for doing "above and beyond" the minimum 100 hours?** *Any student who completes 150 hours or more will receive special recognition as a senior on Awards Day.*

VOLUNTEER'S CREED

I will do more than belong.
I will participate.

I will do more than care.
I will help.

I will do more than believe.
I will practice.

I will do more than be fair.
I will be kind.

I will do more than forgive.
I will inspire.

I will do more than give.
I will serve.

Author Unknown.

KEY SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES ON SERVICE

What good is it, brethren, if someone says he has faith
but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
If a brother or a sister has nothing to wear
and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"
but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?
So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, it is dead.
Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works."
Demonstrate your faith to me without works,
and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

James 2:14-18

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Matthew 25:31-46 & 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Mark 10:42-45 & John 13:1-16

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE by Pope Pius XII

**Almighty and eternal God,
may you grace in all persons
a love of the many unfortunate people
whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life
unworthy of human beings.**

**Arouse in the hearts
of those who call you Father
a hunger and thirst
for social justice and
for fraternal charity
in deeds and in truth.**

**Grant, O Lord,
Peace in our days, Peace to our souls,
Peace to our community and Peace among nations. Amen.**

THE MEANING OF FRIENDSHIP by Mother Teresa of Calcutta

When I was homeless,
you opened your doors.
When I was naked,
you gave me your coat.
When I was weary,
you helped me find rest.
When I was anxious,
you calmed all my fears.
When I was little,
you taught me to read.
When I was lonely,
you gave me your love.
When in prison,
you came to my cell.

When on sick bed,
you cared for my needs.
In a strange country,
you made me at home.
Seeking employment,
you found me a job.
Hurt in a battle,
you healed my wounds.
Searching for kindness,
you held out your hands.
When I was of different race,
mocked and insulted,
you carried my cross.

When I was aged,
you bothered to smile.
When I was restless,
you listened and cared.
You saw me covered with
spittle and blood,
You knew my features
though grimy with sweat.
When I was laughed at,
you stood at my side.
When I was happy,
you shared my joy.
Amen.

Any Questions? Email csp@pndhs.org