

Our Lady of Hope Church

Office of Religious Education

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Dear Parents/Guardians of incoming level 8 students,

As 8th graders your children are entering year 2 of sacramental preparation for Confirmation. We will be focusing on growing in faith and engaging in conversation about our faith.

We as believers are called by our Baptism to accept the gifts of the Spirit and put them to work in our homes, our community, and in the world. Level 8 will be asked to participate in ten (10) hours of Community Service. Community Service is volunteer work performed for someone other than family. This is not to say that they shouldn't be doing things to help their family. On the contrary, as a member of a family this should be done without prompting.

There are many opportunities for performing service. It is very important that whatever service your child selects, **it will have an impact on others**. The service can be done for the Church, the local community, a neighbor or any project helping those less fortunate than we are. **After careful consideration we will no longer be accepting The Life Church Summer Camp in Westbury for Community Service hours.** After many interviews, most of our Confirmation students that worked at this camp in no way felt they had an impact on others, going against the spirit of Community Service.

Below are some general ideas for Community Service:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Parish Ministries such as Altar Server, Junior Lector, or Usher-Food Drive for the Our Lady of Hope Food Pantry-Westbury Library Teen Zone Volunteers-Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park-Participate/Fundraise in a charity race	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Organize a car wash and donate the profits to a charity or the church-Volunteer at an animal shelter-Send cards to soldiers overseas-Mow the lawn, rake, or shovel snow for elderly neighbors-Participate in a cleanup at a local park, pond, beach, or lake
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Attached, please find a Community Service log and Confirmation Reflection questions on one service initiative. We are giving the opportunity to begin Community Service over the summer. I hope this year will be a wonderful faith-filled year.

Have a blessed and safe summer,

Rev. Kevin J. Dillon