**Christian Service Information**

**Notre Dame Academy Middle School 2017-2018**

“You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment**.** And the second is like it, **YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”** Matthew 22:37-39

The *Works of Mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2447) During this 2017-2018 school year, our Notre Dame Academy Middle School students will be focusing on learning to incorporate the *Works of Mercy* into their daily lives, with the intention of helping to influence their decision making in the future. We hope to provide living examples of how to live out our Catholic Faith.

Each month we will practice a different *Work of Mercy* in school, which will be counted toward the students’ Religion grades. A few examples include: collecting can goods, fasting on soup and bread for a school lunch, helping with the younger grades (hungry for the Word of God) for “Feed the Hungry;” donating hats and gloves for “Clothe the Naked;” and praying the rosary and participating in a walking pilgrimage to Our Lady of Victory for “Pray for the Living and the Dead.”

The students will also have various opportunities to participate in the sacraments, understanding that they are life to our souls. Again, active participation in this goes toward the students’ trimester grades.

We also strongly encourage students to perform additional *Works of Mercy* outside the mandatory school obligations. Teaching our youth to sacrifice and give to others reaps lifelong benefits. Any student who performs over 50 Christian service hours will be given an award and will be recognized at the end of the school year.

* Students must fill out the service hour form and submit it to Mrs. Ivanoski within 30 days of the hours being completed.
* They must be done at a non-profit organization, and be working to aid one’s “neighbour.” (This does not include working with animals or doing things for yourself)
* The forms must be signed by the supervisor, not by a parent.
* Some of our school projects can count toward your 50 hour goal. Mrs. Ivanoski will let you know which ones and she can sign your forms. (Bringing in a soup can doesn’t count toward hours, but a walking pilgrimage would count)
* It is advisable to verify with me prior to volunteering to be sure that it will count toward service hours. (volunteering in your parish or a nursing home will count!)
* All completed forms are due no later than Friday, May 18, 2018 if one intends on receiving an award.
* Forms can be found in the Religion classroom or can be printed from Mrs. Ivanoski’s webpage.