

Opus Fidelium *“Work of the Faithful”*

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or 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, is dead.

James 2:14-17

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are works of charity done out of compassion or concern for those in distress and suffering. The Corporal Works are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, ransoming the captive and burying the dead. The Spiritual Works are instructing the ignorant, correcting sinners, advising the doubtful, showing patience to sinners and those in error, forgiving others, comforting the afflicted and praying for the living and dead.

Each academic year students at Immaculate High School are required to put their faith into action through *Opus Fidelium*. Each student must spend at least twenty-five (25) hours per year in performing works of mercy in service to his/her fellow human beings. Works of the Faithful should, for the most part, be rooted in the Spiritual and the Corporal Works of Mercy. In addition, however, a portion of a student's hours may be donated in service to the Immaculate community. More details about this can be found on page 2.

A variety of *Opus Fidelium* opportunities will be available to students throughout the academic year. It is, however, the responsibility of each student to complete and correctly document the twenty-five (25) hour minimum requirement of *Opus Fidelium* by April 5, 2011 using the *Joint 2010-2011 I.H.S. Community Service Form* available in the front office and on line. The completed forms must be submitted to Mrs. Foncello by **April 8, 2011**.

The following is a partial list of area organizations that students are encouraged to research as they select how and where they would like to complete their *Opus Fidelium* requirement:

- American Cancer Society
- American Red Cross
- Animal Rescue Programs
- Ann's Place
- Area Homeless Shelters
- Area Hospitals
- Area Nursing Homes
- Catholic Charities
- CT Special Olympics
- Cystic Fibrosis of CT
- Dorothy Day Hospitality House
- Food Drives
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hanahoe Clinic
- Hospice of Western CT
- House of Malta
- Interfaith AIDS
- Knights of Columbus
- Literacy Programs
- Local Parishes
- March for Life
- Midnight Run
- Relay for Life
- United Way of Fairfield County

Additional possibilities can be found at:

<http://www.volunteerdanbury.org/volunteers/to-get-started.html>

Voluntary service to I.H.S.

- **Ninth graders** may use up to **12 hours** of service to I.H.S. as part of their *Opus Fidelium* requirement.
- **Tenth graders** may use up to **10 hours** of service to I.H.S. as part of their *Opus Fidelium* requirement.
- **Juniors and seniors** may use up to **5 hours** of service to I.H.S. as part of their *Opus Fidelium* requirement.

Please note: Faculty members may not promise students service hours without prior approval from the administration.

Volunteer service activities which can be used to meet the annual requirement include but are not limited to the following:

Youth Achievement Volunteerism

- Altar serving and training altar servers
- Book sales at school/library
- CCD (religious education) teaching
- Child care / Babysitting in an organizational setting
- Children's Choir Pianist / Instructor
- Coaching
- Counselor – Bible / Youth camp
- I.H.S. Freshman Registration
- Improving literacy (e.g. reading, finance)
- Library clerical work
- Mentoring
- Set up / clean up for non-fundraising school functions (e.g. Baccalaureate Mass, Ring Ceremony, et al.)
- Sports manager activities up to the average length of each qualifying sporting event
- Stage manager
- Student ambassador service (Hosting a "shadow" = 1 hour/day)
- Tutoring
- Volunteering to keep young people engaged academically in education
- Working the Youth Cursillo Retreat

Parks and Open Space Volunteerism

- Conservation / protection efforts on behalf of parklands and gardens
- Creating safe and meaningful experiences and outdoor activities for individuals to enjoy the environment and natural resources
- Creating safe playgrounds
- Neighborhood clean up
- Rake and Bake
- Work Community Campout

- Yard work / snow removal for organizations or non-family individuals

Healthy Communities Volunteerism

- 30-hour famine
- Animal care
- Cantoring
- Career training and resume building programs
- Fundraising for non-profit organizations
- Helping the elderly, disabled, diseased, hungry, homeless
- Hospital volunteering
- Immunization campaigns, disease screening, hospital support, blood drives, veterans' outreach
- Improving health of community (e.g. economic health)
- Lectoring
- Micro-enterprise and business development
- Midnight Run prep.
- Non-partisan political involvement
- Singing practice for a church / community choir
- Working with local public health programs

Public Safety and Emergency Response Volunteerism

- Citizen Corps Program
- Firefighting
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Neighborhood Watch
- Police service
- Preparedness training
- Volunteerism which helps to make homes and communities safer from the threat of crime, terrorism, disasters of all kinds