

## Reflection (Junior Theology)

During your Junior year Theology class you will be asked to reflect on your service-learning experience in light of the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and The Beatitudes. **You will choose at least one CST theme and at least one Beatitude that directly relates to your service and write two paragraphs for your paper.** Each CST Theme and Beatitude below has questions(s) to help you write your paper for senior year. These paragraphs will be due May of Junior year to your Theology teacher. You will complete your paper over the summer and include these two paragraphs.

**Catholic Social Teaching:** The following Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching are articulated by the USCCB.

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- How has your service helped you come to a greater respect for the dignity of each individual?
- What does it mean to recognize the sacred dignity of each person we encounter?
- What in our society oppresses people or prevents them from living with dignity?

### Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- How has your service project helped you come to a greater recognition of those pushed to the margins of society? How might they be better welcomed to participate in society?
- How do the relationships we have established during our service free people to more fully be a part of community?
- In your group of friends, what labels are used to divide and distance you from one another? What can you do to repair that damage?

### Rights and Responsibilities

- How has your service made you more aware of the basic rights of individuals?
- What obligation do you as an individual and we as a society have to make sure that the rights of all are met?
- Do you feel that society empowers/enables those whom you serve to make decisions for themselves regarding issues by which they are most immediately impacted? (Subsidiarity)

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- In light of your service, do you believe our nation/state/local community has a great enough concern for the plight of the poor? Why/not?
- What do we learn about how God calls us when we tune into the cry of the poor? What do we discover about God through the poor?

### Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- How has your service helped you to understand better the importance of work and the rights of workers?

### Solidarity

- How has your service project brought you to a greater recognition of our interrelatedness as human beings?

### Caring for God's Creation

- How has your service project brought you to a greater understanding of environmental issues and the impact they have on the poor and vulnerable

**The Beatitudes:** The following eight Beatitudes have been defined in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12).

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**

- In what ways have you brought comfort to those who have been stripped of hope?
- Where did you see hope in the organization in which you volunteered?

**Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

- How have you brought comfort to those who have suffered loss (of home, family, job, country, etc.)?
- How does the organization with which you served help those who have suffered loss?

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.**

- How has your worldview expanded?
- In what ways are you more humble as a result of your service-learning experience?

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.**

- How has your service project helped you opened your eyes to injustice?
- What are some of the root causes of the injustices facing the community you served?

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

- How has your service project helped you understand mercy through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion?
- In what ways has your heart expanded in mercy?

**Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.**

- Where have you seen God in your service project?
- How have you helped minister to those in need?

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

- How did you share the message of peace with others?
- In what ways have you helped bridge a divide between others?

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

- In what ways have you expanded your commitment to the needs of others?
- How has your service project taught you to daringly and openly live for Christ?