

September 9, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Philosophy of Christian Service has always been to give priority to those who are hurting and suffering in our world.

The Sermon on the Mount and our Christian faith both speak clearly about our responsibility to those in need. Mt 25:46, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Christian Service obtains its defining qualities and inspiration from both the Old and the New Testament. It is clear from these sources that service is directed towards those who are less fortunate. At Notre Dame this is our focal point and mandate, and has been for over thirty years.

The Ministry of Education requires each student to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service in order to graduate. At Notre Dame, the following hours are built into the curriculum for each year level. This is a requirement for your child while studying Religion in the following courses.

Grade 9	HRE10	10 hours required
Grade 10	HRE20	10 hours required
Grade 11	HRF30	15 hours required
Grade 11	HRT3M	15 hours required
Grade 12	HHS4M	20 hours required
Grade 12	CPW 4U	5 hours required

Therefore, your child has the opportunity to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education through the Religion program, although the hours they complete during their Religion classes must focus on helping individuals who are hurting and suffering in our world as indicated in Matthew's gospel passage.

We do encourage students to make service work a part of their daily life, so it is understood that your child may have completed / will complete additional community service hours outside of their Religion course, In order to apply these additional hours to your child's transcript, they must complete an **Additional Community Service Hours** form with a supervisor's signature or letter attached.

Thank you,

Paul Turner and Carol Berkhout.