

# FORDHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

### Final Essay

At the beginning of your Christian service project, you were told that through service you would probably see some changes in yourself and in the way you understand people in need. We hope that has been true and that the changes have, on the whole, been positive. If you have encountered negative experiences, we hope that they, too, have taught you something valuable.

Before leaving the program, you have one more requirement to fulfill -- to encapsulate your service experience in an essay. The essay will help you evaluate your project and, at the same time, help the program and the Prep students who will follow in your footsteps. In a 500-700 word **typed** essay, summarize your experience of service. Reflect on your attitudes toward service going into the project, your expectations and fears, your actual experiences, your evaluation of the project and the service program, and your plans for the future. This essay will be added to your file and will become a valuable resource for the program. Unless you object, the essay may be distributed and used for teaching purposes.

**To help you organize the essay, you should consider the following questions (Do not merely give a series of short answers to these questions. Write an essay):**

1. What was your attitude toward service in general before you entered the Prep?
2. How would you evaluate your underclass service activities? What was your impression of the senior service **project** as you were coming into senior year?
3. Did you understand the reasons given in service class for why you were required to perform service? Why do you think Fordham Prep makes service a required part of its educational program?
4. How did you come to pick your specific service project?
5. Describe the service site, staff, people served, and programs of your particular project.
6. What were your goals as you started?
7. Which goals did you achieve? How were you able to achieve them? Which goals were you **not** able to achieve? Why?

**(MORE QUESTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE)**

8. What were the most positive and negative experiences you had during service? Give specific examples.
9. What do you think was the most important gift you gave to those people you served?
10. What suggestions would you make to your service placement that would help them better serve people? How could they help improve the experience of Prep students?
11. How do you think your agency supervisor will evaluate your performance? How do you think you will be remembered by the staff and by the people you served?
12. What did you learn about yourself that you did not know before service?
13. What did you learn about people, in general, and people in need, in particular?
14. Did you learn anything as a result of service that you think might stay with you for the rest of your life, e.g., in college, career, personal relationships, religious outlook?
15. What is your view of service now? What was the most valuable lesson you learned?
16. What advice would you give to students coming into the senior service program?
17. What did you like about the service course at the Prep? What suggestions would you make to improve the course?
18. Do you think service should be a requirement at the Prep?
19. Do you think you might do service on your own in the future? If not, why not? If so, what kind of service do you think you might do?
20. End with a **personal theological statement** about how your experience and understanding of service affects and is affected by your relationship with God. If you are not prepared to answer this question, explain why.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING  
YOUR SERVICE REQUIREMENT!**

**GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE!**

**OUR PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES GO WITH YOU!**