

**St. Kilian Congregation
428 Forest Street
Hartford, WI 53027**

Sep 13, 2018

Dear Grade 8-11 Religious Education Parents,

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, we will have our annual sign-up for the students' Service Learning Opportunities (Service Projects) in class. Attached is a copy of the forms that the students need to fill out. I am emailing this to you so that you might have time to look them over as a family, talk about each option, and prayerfully reflect on which project your student will choose.

As you can see below, there are projects that will benefit the parish directly. There are also very specific experiences chosen to get the student out of their comfort zone and see what real poverty looks like. There are also projects that benefit the lonely and the suffering. If your student would like to attend the same session with a classmate, please be sure that they both sign up for the same project and coordinate when and how they work on that project. The students are required to complete two reflections on their Service Learning Experience; one with the sign-up and one upon completion of the experience.

Catechist Aide Sunday Mornings: The student will be assigned to one morning class and Catechist to be with for the Religious Education year. (S)he will assist in various projects and tasks determined by the Catechist.

Lector, Server: Become a Lector or Server on the regular Liturgical schedule. Training will be provided.

St. Ben's Meal Program, St. Ben's Holiday Meal Drive, or House of Peace, Milwaukee: Work with the Capuchin Friars as they serve the poor, the hungry, and the homeless in Milwaukee. Students help with the pouring of beverages, cleaning/resetting tables, helping guests with their trays, clean up following the meal, etc. at St. Ben's Meal Program. Contact Dennis so that he may put you in contact with the St. Ben's staff to get on their schedule. Transportation is on your own.

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Meal Program, Milwaukee: Attend the 9:30 am Sunday Mass at the Cathedral and then assist with preparation, serving, and cleanup for the Sunday meal in the Café. Contact Dennis so that he may put you in contact with the Café coordinator to get on their schedule. Transportation is on your own.

Hartford Pink Pumpkin Run: Volunteer to help with the run on **October 6, 2018 in downtown Hartford**. This charity run's proceeds help local families affected by breast cancer, by providing basic daily needs. To find out more info go to: <http://www.pinkpumpkinrunhartford.com/>.

Casa Guadalupe: As a Reading Tutor or Childcare Provider for children of Hispanic adult students, student volunteers can help mentor and teach reading skills to Hispanic elementary school students and help with their homework. There also is opportunities to work with and serve as childcare providers for our adult students' children while the parents attend classes or other events. You do **not** have to know Spanish to work with these students!

CRS Food Fast: Date has not been set. Offered only if enough students sign-up. **See sign-up form for more information.**

Red Cross Bike Project: Students will repair and paint bicycles that will be donated to the Hartford Christmas Committee and used as Christmas gifts for children in the Hartford area. This project is completed at Russ Krebs' Shop in St. Lawrence (4933 Wildlife Rd., St. Lawrence). Russ will work with the young people to come up with a day that works for their schedule. Sessions were held on Wednesday evenings last year. If they continue to be held on Wednesday's it may begin Wednesday, October 17, 2018, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The number of sessions will be determined as the project progresses depending on completion of the bikes. Russ will provide a permission slip and a schedule to those students who sign up for this project. Parents are responsible for driving and picking up their children.

Tie Blanket/Lap Blanket Projects: Make these items to give to the poor and elderly. Get a group together to make it fun! In the past we had requests to put together a larger group to work on this. The parish usually will buy enough fabric to make about 16 blankets. This is for a group of young people to get together and make the blankets on the St. Kilian campus with Mrs. Schnorenberg – probably in January! Each student helps to defray the cost of the material or perhaps someone you know would like to donate toward the cost.

Work Camp: This is a weeklong mission trip in which the students help with repairs to housing of individuals in need. This year they will be traveling to Frederick, Maryland Saturday July 13, 2018 – Sunday July 21, 2018. There are various fund raisers that students and parents can participate in to raise money to cover the expenses and supplies. There is a required monthly meeting generally on the third Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm in the St. Theodore Room.

In addition, Youth are encouraged to help at any activity in which adult parishioners are asked to help even though these would not count as service projects for your service experience (i.e. basketball tournament, pancake breakfast, fish fry, dinner auction, etc.) Without volunteers, these worthwhile projects cannot happen.

Because I had a number of parents ask specifically about Work Camp, I am including the following information to help assist you in making informed decisions about that opportunity.

The Work Camp mission trip is a great experience for the Youth of St. Kilian and St. John to serve others and grow closer to Christ as they do so. They will also experience the amazing power of working as a community to do God's work. Registration is due September 18, 2016 to the Work Camp Leadership Team at the first meeting on September 18th in the St. Theodore Room. Depending on space, late applications may be accepted.

Work Camp - FAQ

Where are we going?	Frederick, Maryland
When are we going?	July 13, 2018 – July 21, 2018
Who will be there?	Over 450 youth from around the U.S., representing many Faiths and States.
What will we be doing?	By working in groups of 6, with people from other youth groups, you will be making a difference in the lives of others by completing home rehabilitation and repairs, with the help of knowledgeable adults, ranging from painting, to building porches and wheel chair ramps. More importantly, you will be making the lives of others better through your service.
What is the cost?	The current budget is around \$800 per camper.
How can I afford it?	We will offer about 10 different fund raising options to help offset the cost of your trip. You can participate in as many fund raisers as you would like. You can assign your \$crip rebate to your work camp account.

For further information about Work Camp contact Dan Feiter at 262-224-4928 or Ron Weber at 707-2939.

Parent Volunteer Drivers Needed: We may be in need of adults who would be willing to drive to St. Ben's or to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Meal Programs in Milwaukee if we have a group of youth signing up for this project. You will need to have completed the 3 hour program required by the Archdiocese called Safeguarding God's Family, read the Code of Ethical Standards and Mandatory Reporting Documents, and provided information for the Criminal Background Check. You will also need to complete a volunteer driver form to provide information on your vehicle and insurance information.

If you have questions regarding this years' service opportunities, driving for the service projects, or attending a Safeguarding God's Family Program, feel free to call me. Thank you for your support of the youth as well as St. Kilian Religious Education.

Direct any questions to the Religious Education Office at 262-673-4831 ext. 406 or e-mail dre@stkiliancong.org .

God's Blessings,
Dennis Vlasak
Dennis Vlasak, DRE