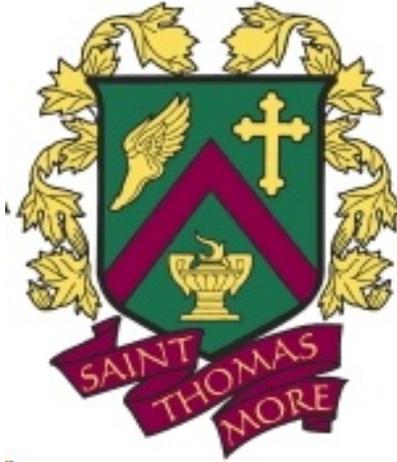


# THE HIGH SCHOOL OF ST. THOMAS MORE



## LIVING THE FAITH

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### What is the purpose of Living the Faith?

The ultimate purpose of these hours of service is to help students realize that their faith ought not to be confined to the church or chapel but should permeate every aspect of their lives such that faith becomes the guiding principle of every action.

In addition, this program challenges them to learn about their community and its needs and arouses in them a sense of responsibility for spreading the Gospel.

### What exactly is expected of the student?

Before graduation, each student must demonstrate a living faith by documenting 150 hours of service:

20 hours as a Freshman	50 hours as a Junior
30 hours as a Sophomore	50 hours as a Senior.

A reduced number of hours is expected of transfer students who discuss their situation with the chaplain.

### What are some criteria for a good service project?

It incorporates one or more of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 2447) teaches: *“The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. . . Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.”*

#### The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- To counsel the doubtful;
- To instruct the ignorant;
- To admonish sinners;
- To comfort the sorrowful;
- To bear wrongs patiently;
- To forgive injuries;
- To pray for the living and the dead.

#### The Corporal Works of Mercy:

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To shelter the homeless;
- To welcome the stranger;
- To visit the sick and imprisoned;
- To bury the dead.

It can be understood as furthering Jesus’ mission.

It brings the student into direct personal service of another person or persons.

It provides an educational experience for the participating student that will challenge the student beyond what is known and comfortable.

It can be easily verified by a supervisor and thoroughly evaluated by the student

It is well supervised.

It leaves the student with the knowledge that another person’s life has been enhanced due to his or her selfless generosity

### What are some other things to consider?

The project cannot provide material compensation of any kind to the student (e.g., one cannot be paid for service) nor can projects be done for a family member.

All things being equal, a project which has a commitment of at least one year is to be preferred to a project which lasts only a short time. A project with a four year commitment is even more laudable.

Projects, as long as they have received the chaplain's approval, may be worked on at any time, even during the summer.

### **What are the usual steps for earning service hours?**

FIRST—Parents sign the “annual liability waiver,” usually at the beginning of the school year

SECOND—Students check to see if a particular project is approved. Approved project's can be found online or the service bulletin board. In addition new opportunities will be posted in the all-parent email.

THIRD—Students arrange their length and type of service with the one who will supervise the service. There is no need to get further approval from the chaplain.

FOURTH—Students perform their service and keep a record of their hours of service. If they like, they may use the form found online.

FIFTH—Once their service has been completed (or near the end of its completion), they ask their supervisor to evaluate them using a form found online. This form must then be turned into the chaplain.

SIXTH—Students evaluate all of their service experiences at the end of each academic year by way of a brief paper completed in their theology class. (Or, in the case of service done during the summer, at the beginning of the academic year)

### **What does a student do in September?**

Students who have completed summer service will complete a self-evaluation and submit it, together with all of their supervisor evaluations, to their theology teacher.

Students will submit goals for the new school year.

### **What does a student do in May (April for Seniors)?**

Students who have completed service will complete a self-evaluation and submit it, together with all of their supervisor evaluations, to their theology teacher.

Students will submit goals for the summer.

### **How is approval obtained for brand new projects?**

Students can approach the chaplain and ask for his thoughts.

The person or organization sponsoring the service opportunity will be asked to fill out the liability waiver.

So long as the liability waiver is signed before the student performs his/her service, credit will be granted.

The service hour opportunity will not be posted for the general population until the liability waiver is received by the chaplain.

### **Where can I find necessary documents?**

hs-stm.org → Campus Ministry → Living the Faith:  
[hs-stm.org/living-the-faith.html](http://hs-stm.org/living-the-faith.html)

### **How do I check to see how many hours I have submitted?**

1. Log on to RenWeb.
2. Under “Family Information” go to “Family Home.”
3. Select the student's name from the list.
4. Look to the right of the student for a small tab: “Community Service.” Click on it.