



# STEWARDSHIP *Service*

## A Guide to Stewardship of Service

To be a steward of service is to follow Christ's example of humble, self-giving love. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. As His disciples, we are called to do the same—not for recognition or reward, but to make the love of God visible to the world.

In the Catholic vision of stewardship, service is a natural outpouring of gratitude. We serve not because the Church needs volunteers, but because God has given us gifts to share. Every act of service—large or small—is a way of participating in the mission of the Gospel.

Stewardship of service means:

- Time: showing up and being present where help is needed.
- Talent: using your God-given abilities for others.
- Treasure: supporting works of mercy and justice with your resources.

Through service, we don't just help people—we help reveal Christ.

## Best Practices

- Begin each act of service with a short prayer, offering it for the person or group you're serving.
- Take a spiritual gifts inventory or talk with your pastor or ministry leader to find where you're most called to serve.
- Commit to one regular act of service in your parish or community (e.g., lecturing, food pantry, homebound visits), and build relationships through that ministry.

## FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



### Volunteer in Parish

Serve as a lector, usher, catechist, choir member, or altar server. Parish ministries are often the first place where your gifts can meet the Church's needs.



### Support the Vulnerable

Help at a food pantry, shelter, prison ministry, or refugee outreach. Serve Christ directly in the least of these.



### Visit the Sick

Offer companionship, prayer, or bring Holy Communion to those who are isolated. A powerful way to serve with your time, presence, and compassion.



### Teach the Faith

Sponsor someone in RCIA, lead a small group, or tutor students in need. Sharing your faith and wisdom is a beautiful act of spiritual service.

Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.  
Matthew 20:26



# Monthly Acts of Mercy Planner

*Each day, perform one small act of mercy or service. Pray before and after, asking God to help you see Christ in others and to love with a generous heart.*

## **Week 1: Feeding, Giving, and Welcoming**

1. Donate food to a parish pantry or Catholic Charities.
2. Give a drink or snack to someone in need.
3. Pay for the coffee of the person behind you in line.
4. Smile and hold the door for strangers.
5. Invite someone new to sit with you at Mass or lunch.
6. Say hello to a neighbor you haven't spoken to in a while.
7. Thank someone in the service industry (cashier, janitor, delivery driver).

## **Week 2: Comforting and Encouraging**

1. Call or visit someone who is sick or homebound.
2. Send a handwritten card to someone going through a hard time.
3. Offer to babysit or help a tired parent for an hour.
4. Pray the Rosary for someone grieving.
5. Write a note of affirmation to a friend or coworker.
6. Encourage a young person in their faith.
7. Light a candle at church for someone in need.

## **Week 3: Forgiving and Listening**

1. Forgive someone who hurt you—start by praying for them.
2. Be extra patient with someone who frustrates you.
3. Listen to someone without interrupting or judging.
4. Go to Confession or make an act of contrition.
5. Let go of a small resentment—write it down and offer it to God.
6. Apologize to someone you've wronged.
7. Pray for the souls in purgatory or a deceased loved one.

## **Week 4: Giving, Teaching, Serving**

1. Donate clothes or household items to a shelter.
2. Teach someone something helpful (a prayer, recipe, skill).
3. Support a cause or ministry with a small donation.
4. Read a spiritual book and share what you learned.
5. Volunteer your time this weekend (parish, charity, school).
6. Offer your daily inconveniences as a sacrifice for others.
7. Help clean or repair something for someone in need.

## **Final Days: Living Mercy Every Day**

1. Pray for someone you've never met (e.g., the imprisoned, refugees).
2. Ask God to show you where you are most needed—and commit to ongoing service.

**Faith without works is dead. – James 2:26**