



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools
150 years of 'Believing, Achieving, Serving'

Christian Service

... at a glance

**... not because you have to
but because you want to**

And then suddenly
the One we loved startled us all
He got up from the table;
tenderness encircled us
as He bowed before us.
He knelt and said,
“I choose to wash your feet
because I love you.”

Then he handed me the towel
and said,
“As I have done
so you must do.”
Let your tenderness encircle
everyone you meet.
Wash their feet
not because *you have to*
because *you want to*.

From: “God in an Apron”
By: “Surprised By Joy”

The Christian Service Program in the Secondary Schools within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board satisfies the graduation requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. (Ontario Secondary Schools, Grade 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999 OSS)

You're Not Alone

The Tradition within the Hamilton– Wentworth Catholic District School Board

It has long been the tradition within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board to encourage students to become involved in the community, both local and global. Schools have been engaging students, both elementary and secondary, in voluntary Christian service as an experiential component of their religious education programs. Students are thus challenged and enabled to put into practice their baptismal commitment to serve others, especially those “who are least among us” (Mt. 25: 35-36, 40).

In-School Support

- Christian Service Animators
- Staff Members in General
- Class Visits
- Individual or Group Conferences
- In-school resources
- Volunteer Fairs (community agencies/parish reps)
- Vocation Fairs
- Christian Service Program: Information Manual
- Volunteer Site Binders
- Information Bulletin Board, etc.
- Motivational Videos and Literature

Home Support

It remains, however, the responsibility of the students and their parents to choose the service that will be provided and to screen the sites and people connected with the service.

But You're in Control What I Would Like to Do

- school involvement
- parish involvement
- Community involvement

Why I Want to Do This

Matches

- genuine concerns for those who need help,
- my personal interests,
- things I want to learn,
- favourite subjects,
- skills,
- talents

When I Would do It

- before or after school, lunch hours
- spares
- evenings
- weekends
- holidays
- 10 hours per year
- all at once
- in my junior years
- as a permanent lifestyle

What Steps I Will Take

- whom I will call/visit
- when I will make my first contact
- what forms I will complete
- what I will say

Ineligible Activities

An ineligible activity is one that

- is a requirement of a class or course (e.g., co-op)
- takes place during instructional time on a school day
- **is normally performed for wages in a workplace**
- involves operating a vehicle, power tools, scaffolding
- involves administering any type or form of medication
- involves handling “designated substances
- consists of normal duties at home (e.g., daily chores)
- is considered personal recreational activity
- **provides direct financial benefit or other gain (social, political, etc.) to the student or his/her family or to a business**
- conflicts with Church teachings and ethical standards

* For more detailed information consult your Christian Service Information Manual

The Two Feet of Christian Service:

To truly perform Christian Service we must use both feet. One foot represents **direct service** (charity) while the other foot represents work toward **social change** (justice).

Direct Service, which helps people survive their present crisis, is the logical place to begin. But just as you need both feet to walk, you should at some point move in the direction of **Social Change**. This will help you understand how to remove the causes of people’s problems.

Just remember...

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Christian Service Volunteering Checklist

Are you aware that... ?

1. you must do 40 hours of service work in order to graduate
2. you must do these hours after entering high school
3. you should try to volunteer where there is a real need
4. you may perform these hours anytime outside instructional time (ie. Before school, during lunch, after school, weekends, holidays)
5. you may exceed this number if you wish to continue to support your causes
6. there is a Christian Service Guide (small, blue) available through Guidance
7. there is a special sheet on which you can track and report your hours and reflections
8. you should submit hours to Guidance on or before Dec. 15 and May 30 of each year
9. you must not get pay or benefits for what you do
10. you must not take another’s wage-earning opportunity
11. there is a Christian Service board you can check regularly
12. there is a Christian Service resource binder in Guidance
13. there is a Christian Service animator to help you
14. you can make an appointment with this animator in Guidance
15. you can also earn hours by becoming aware of groups/agencies of social change (eg. through visits, meetings, etc.)

