



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

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## FAQs about Senior Christian Service

During your senior year, you have the option to perform Christian service hours based on your interests that fall into the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Care for God's Creation). This year, you will serve with organizations that focus on social justice. Senior year is meant to be a time to try serving others in a new way or continue serving in a way you already enjoy (as long as it falls under the principles of Catholic Social Teaching).

### **Why am I serving based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching?**

By senior year, you have served your family, faith community, and the poor and marginalized. It is now your decision to pursue that Christian service as a means of integrating what you've learned in theology courses the past three years and the core social teachings of the Catholic Church.

### **How is my Christian Service Requirement different than my prior years?**

As part of the Indiana's Graduation's Pathway program, each student needs to complete a Christian Service Capstone project. Bishop Chatard students complete theirs in senior year. To complete the requirement, you will need to complete 25 hours of Christian service at your pre-approved site, attend a monthly capstone group with other students serving in the same principle of Catholic Social Teaching, and write four progress reflections about your experience serving those at your site.

### **What are some examples of places I could do my Christian service hours?**

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Homeless shelters, food pantries, organizations that focus on being anti-war, pro-birth, anti-racism, anti-death penalty, anti-euthanasia, etc.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Fairtrade organizations, community centers, youth centers, family ministries

Rights and Responsibilities

- Immigration agencies, refugee assistance

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Homeless shelters, food pantries, elderly homes, care of persons with disabilities

#### The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Labor unions, agencies that focus on entrepreneurship and opportunities for poor, worker's rights groups

#### Solidarity

- Saint Vincent DePaul, checking on an elderly neighbor, social action such as setting up a winter shelter for homeless people or campaigning to stop the deportation of an asylum seeker, or any serious engagement with people across a divide whether of race, religion, age, or social background through a BCHS Christian Service Immersion Trip

#### Care for God's Creation

- Agencies that focus on sustainability, care for the earth, and cleaning parks and local neighborhoods

#### **How do I know if the position they assign me qualifies for my required hours?**

If you are getting paid, it does NOT count. The required Christian service hours are volunteer (i.e., free). If you are simply taking the place of a paid employee, the hours will not count.

#### **How many hours do I need?**

25 hours.

#### **Must I complete them all at the same service placement? Yes.**

#### **Why?**

Not only does it require a significant amount of time to build relationships, you are also making a commitment to the organization. Bishop Chatard has high standards for students honoring their commitments.

#### **What if there is a problem at my service site – can I switch?**

Any potential switching of organizations MUST be approved by Campus Ministry. Only certain rare circumstances justify switching once you have made a commitment. For example, if the organization is not providing you with DIRECT service opportunities, then you may switch to ensure you fulfill your requirement.

#### **May I complete them over the summer prior to my senior year?**

No. All Christian Service completed senior year must be done in the school year, as to fulfill the Indiana Pathways graduation requirement.

**May I continue doing service at the same site as during my junior year or do I have to switch?**

You may continue to volunteer with the same organization. However, a new Christian Service Agreement needs to be submitted and the site must fit into one of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Hours completed before the end of the junior academic year will not count toward senior hours.

**What if I serve more than my required hours?**

There are two additional categories in MobileServe that will count toward your total service hours during your time at BCHS: "Campus Ministry" and "Other". "Campus Ministry" hours are service hours gained through participation in the Campus Ministry Team (Peer Ministry, Retreat Leading, and Liturgy Core Team). "Other" hours include if you participate in service outside of your senior year commitment.

**Why would I want to record those?**

"Campus Ministry" and "Other" hours DO NOT count toward your senior year goal of 25 hours in your faith community. However, they will be recorded on your transcript and colleges will know that you went above and beyond what is required in terms of serving the community. If you complete 75 hours of total service (i.e., at least 25 hours of sophomore service in addition to 50 more hours) this year, you will be eligible for the St. Theresa of Calcutta Distinction. If you complete more than 120 hours by graduation, you will be eligible for the St. Lawrence Christian Service Honor Cord.

**How do I find a place to do my hours?**

There are several options:

- If you know the type of service you are interested in, do an internet search for placements in your area.
- See Campus Ministry – We can make suggestions based on your interests and location requirements.
- If you are not sure what you'd like to do – see Campus Ministry! We can figure out what might be a good fit for you.
- Talk to other students – ask where they did their service and what placements they recommend.
- Check out the BCHS website – it has a (non-comprehensive) list of potential placements.

### **How do I get my Christian Service Agreement signed?**

- **DO:**
  - Politely call and ask for an appointment to talk or meet with the Volunteer Coordinator or other person in a position of management.
  - Leave a message if no one answers with your name, contact info, and reason for calling. Show up to an appointment on time and well dressed.
  - Ask what volunteer opportunities are available.
  - Show your enthusiasm for serving the population that the organization serves.
  - Ensure they have 25 hours of volunteer work available for you.
  - Ask when and how often you can volunteer.
  - Ask for someone to be your supervisor, who can verify the hours once you've completed them.
- **DO NOT:**
  - Demand a meeting.
  - Have your parents call or set up meetings for you.
  - Show up late or disheveled to appointments.
  - Hand over the form without explaining the purpose of your interest in volunteering.
  - Use an organization's failing to call you back as an excuse not to turn in your form.

### **How should I conduct myself at my placement site?**

- **DO:**
  - Show up when you sign up.
  - Be courteous and follow instructions from staff.
  - Log your hours in MobileServe immediately following your service.
- **DO NOT:**
  - Fail to show up at your scheduled time for volunteering without calling and letting the organization know. They are counting on you.
  - Wait until the last minute to complete your hours.
  - Log all your service hours at the last minute.

### **What about the Christian Service Immersion (CSI) trips?**

Campus Ministry is excited to announce that we will be hosting different CSI trips throughout the year. These trips will allow students to understand the true meaning of poverty, service, and solidarity as we do a deep dive into communities both near and far from BCHS. On CSI trips,

students will participate in different kinds of service during the first part of the day, experience community in the afternoons, and practice theological reflection in the evenings.

**Why should I attend a CSI trip?**

In addition to being a worthwhile formational experience and a lot of fun, the CSI trips will meet the requirement for junior and senior year (i.e., if you are a senior, it will fulfill your senior year service hour requirements)! Further, if you wish to attend an international CSI trip (ex. El Salvador), you must first attend a domestic trip.

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