



Mercy Hall  
3300 N. 60th St.  
Omaha, NE 68104

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## ARCHDIOCESE of OMAHA

## OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

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*Supported by the Archbishop's Annual Appeal*

402.557.5610  
402.554.8402 (FAX)  
[www.archomaha.org](http://www.archomaha.org)

To the parents of Youth Serve participants:

We are delighted your son or daughter is joining us for Youth Serve. We are working hard to guarantee that it will be a tremendous experience for everyone who attends!

**Enclosed you will find**

Program Description and Schedule Overview

Packing List

Getting the Most from the Youth Serve Experience

Map

**Refunds:**

No refunds will be made after June 16, 2017.

**Arrival:**

Participants should arrive at 12:45 pm on Sunday. *Please make sure that your child eats lunch before coming and has fulfilled his/her Sunday obligation of attending mass.*

**Departure:**

The program closes on Tuesday with a special Family Session and Mass from 6:45-8:00 pm.

It is important for your child be present for the entire program (Sunday to Tuesday). If this is not possible, we invite you to register your child for a date that will allow them to experience the entire program. It is equally important for you to be present at the Family Session and Mass as it will provide a summary of your child's experience.

The Emergency Phone number for the week is: 402-557-5612. Other numbers will be given to you by your parish coordinator.

Jen Moser  
Director of Youth Ministry

# Youth Serve 2017

## Program Description

Youth Serve is a three day, two night service learning program designed for teams of adults and students entering 8th and 9th grades. The program offers quality time for learning, service and prayer.

## Program Goals

- Involve young adolescents in a creative and integrated approach to service learning from a Catholic perspective.
- Impact the way families with young adolescents view, understand, and respond to justice issues in their community.
- Introduce and model a process for local leaders to effectively engage young adolescents in Catholic service learning experiences.

By participating in this program young adolescents will:

- Deepen their understanding of the gospel call to discipleship and justice
- Learn about local and domestic poverty and explore its causes, consequences and responses
- Explore Catholic social teaching and its application to life today
- Live, learn, pray and work in community with other Catholic youth and adults
- Engage in hands-on service involvement with people and agencies that assist people in need locally
- Share their learning insights and creative ideas with peers and family members
- Discover ways to continue their justice and service involvement as individuals, with their families, and with their parish or school groups

## Schedule Overview

### Sunday

11:00 am Adult team leaders arrive  
12:45 pm Participants Arrive  
1:00 pm Community Builders  
2:30 pm Welcome & Opening Prayer  
3:30 pm Service as Discipleship  
4:00 pm Catholic Social Teaching  
5:00 pm Living in Community  
5:30 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm People in Need  
7:45 pm Break  
8:00 pm Poverty Video & Discussion  
9:00 pm Preparing for Service  
9:30 pm Free Time & Games  
10:15 pm Night Prayer  
11:00 pm Lights Out

### Monday

7:30 am Rise & Shine  
8:00 am Breakfast & packing lunches  
8:30 am Prayer Send off  
8:45 am Depart to Work Sites  
2:30 pm Return to Retreat Center  
3:00 pm Clean Up & Free Time  
4:00 pm Journaling  
4:15 pm Warm Up Activity  
4:20 pm Process Day & Site Sharing  
5:00 pm Preparation for Closing Mass  
5:25 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Warm up activity  
6:20 pm Prepare for Parent Presentation  
7:00 pm Simulation Experience & Discussion  
10:00 pm Social  
10:30 pm Night Prayer  
11:00 pm Lights Out

### Tuesday

7:30 am Rise & Shine  
8:00 am Breakfast & packing lunches  
8:30 am Prayer Send off  
8:45 am Depart to Work Sites  
2:30 pm Return to Retreat Center  
4:00 pm Journaling  
4:15 pm Warm Up Activity  
4:20 pm Process Day & Site Sharing  
4:45 pm Catholic Social Teaching Connection  
5:05 pm Gifts Shared in Service  
5:20 pm Dinner  
6:45 pm Presentations & Family Mass

# Youth Serve 2017

## Packing List

**Remember, please pack lightly:** Everything you pack should fit into one bag. Your pillow and a sleeping bag may be carried or packed separately.

### Appropriate Dress

Dress at both the program and work sites should be casual but modest, i.e., jeans or long shorts, shirts/t-shirts and tennis shoes. No cutoffs or short-shorts, low riding pants, tank tops, belly-shirts, sport bras, or t-shirts with suggestive or violent language, advertising tobacco or alcohol. The purpose of these guidelines is to honor yourself and one another.

### What to bring:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag (or bed linens) & Pillow                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo/Conditioner                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeans or Work Pants   | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush/Toothpaste                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts or Work Shirts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Hair Brush                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight Jacket or Sweatshirt  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks   | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Needs (deodorant, hair ties, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or Work Boots (flip-flops <i>cannot</i> be worn to work-sites) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel/Washcloth   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or Sun Visor                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap  | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Gloves                                 |

### Don't Forget...

- A Bible**
- Re-usable Water Bottle**

### Cell Phone Policy

You may bring a cell phone, but please use it only to call home or in case of emergency.

### What NOT to bring:

Ipod/MP3/Electronic Games  
Expensive Clothing or Jewelry

### Chaperone Additional Packing List:

- Basic First Aid Kit
- Insect Repellent
- Cooler (large enough to hold lunch & drinks for your team)
- Cooler Ice Packs
- Favorite Board Game (optional)
- Basketball, Soccer Ball, Frisbee, etc. (optional)

## Youth Serve 2017

# Getting the Most from the Youth Serve Experience

Youth Serve provides an opportunity for you and your child to learn and dialogue together about the role of service and social justice in our daily lives as disciples of Christ. To make the most of the Youth Serve experience, consider the following:

### **Prior to the Service-Learning Overnight**

- Encourage your child to enter fully into the experience of Youth Serve.
- Read through the Youth Serve Overview sheet to familiarize yourself with what will be happening during the program.
- Talk with your child to find out what he or she already knows about the topics to be covered.
- Pray for your child and for the entire team as they prepare for the Youth Serve experience.
- Review the Code of Conduct with your child so they understand what is expected of them during the program.

### **During the Youth Serve Program**

- Post the program schedule in a visible place at home and/or work.
- Continue to pray for your child, adult team members, presenters, other youth participants, and for the people they serve during the week.

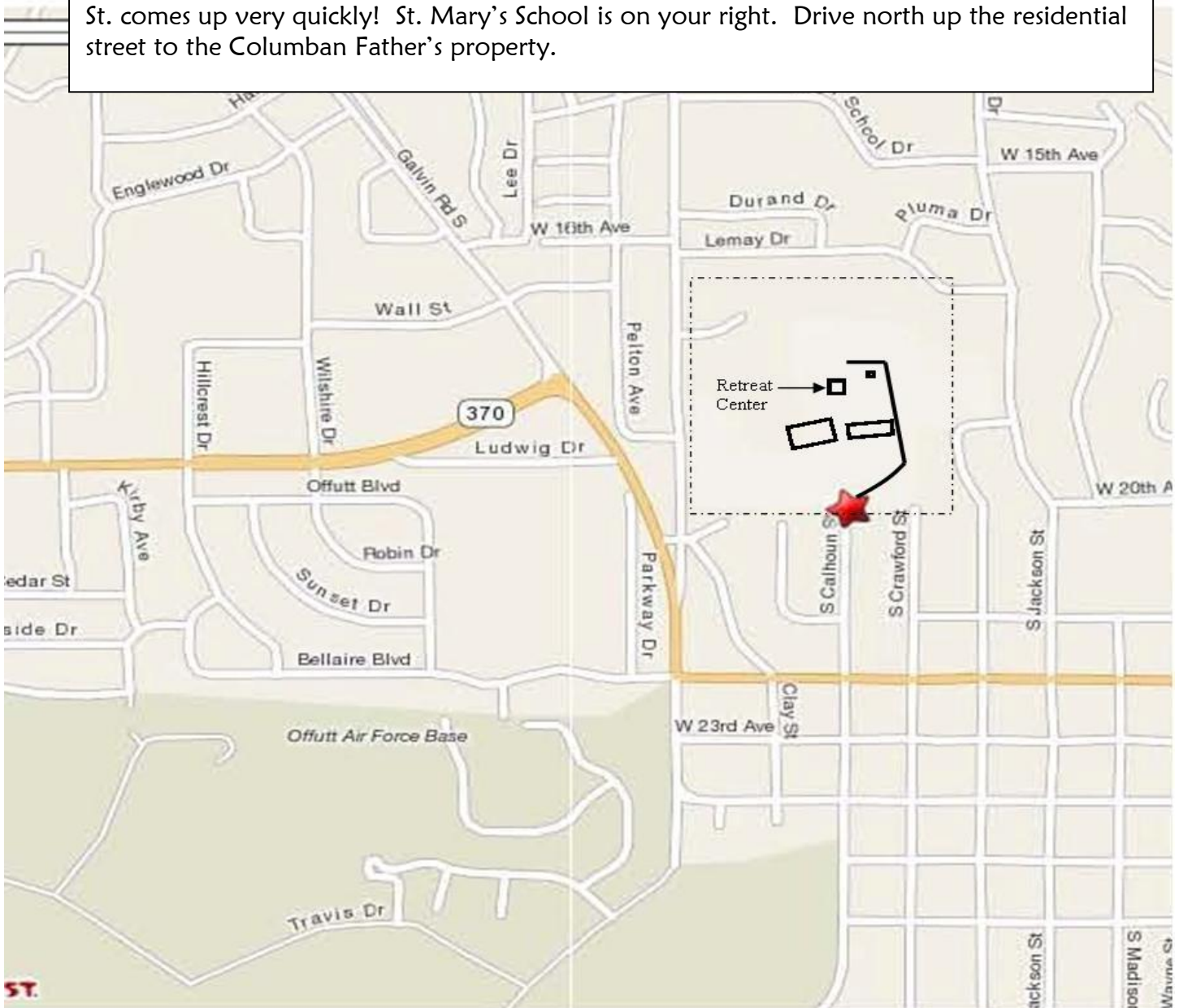
### **Following the Youth Serve Experience**

- Talk with your child about his or her experience. Be prepared to respond to questions about poverty, hunger, and human rights.
- Integrate service into your family life through one or more of the following:
  - Encourage your child to consider a commitment to a regular service opportunity for the coming year and attend with them if you are able.
  - Discuss how you spend your money as a family, and how you make decisions about which groups and causes to support. Decide together what your "tithing" priorities should be for the coming month or year.
  - Consider a monthly donation to Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, or another organization that helps those in need.
  - Discuss together what you're presently doing, as individuals and as a family, to reach out to people in need. If there's more you'd like to do, decide on a service project you can get involved with as a family.
  - Encourage your son or daughter to continue praying for those he or she met during the service week. Join with him or her in prayer for all the children and families in need in our own country and around the world.

## Youth Serve 2017

### From Kennedy Freeway

Exit on 370, head east, right on Galvin Rd, left on Mission, 2nd left on Calhoun. Calhoun St. comes up very quickly! St. Mary's School is on your right. Drive north up the residential street to the Columban Father's property.



As you enter the Columban's property, just stay to your right. Check-in is at the Retreat Center.

### From Kennedy Freeway

Exit on 370, head east, right on Galvin Rd, left on Mission, left on Calhoun. Calhoun is right at St. Mary's school.