



Building Community

10th Grade

Minimum required hours for Apostolic Works: 15 Hours

The Purpose

The purpose of *Building Community* is to help our students live in communities that exist for the common good in our Church and in our society. Community is a core value for Marianists and a building block for social-change efforts when Marianists take on social justice issues. Building upon the gifts discovered through *Passion for the Mission*, students are called to share their gifts to help improve a community. They gather as equals, each bringing their giftedness and passion to make the community into a human family. Therefore, community becomes a place for discernment, support, and challenge because it is a place where members come together to address a specific social injustice. And sometimes it is a place where members console each other when their plans fall flat. Members of a human family remain steadfast, nonetheless, convinced that their efforts to build community are an integral part of creating a more just and peaceful world.

Objectives

1. Students will foster an increased connection to the value of the CME of Service, Justice, and Peace.
2. Students will learn that everyone has something to contribute as a member of the community and has a responsibility to exercise good stewardship.
3. Students will acknowledge that we are all part of the human family and are called to treat everyone else as a valued member of this one family.
4. Students will learn how to articulate cultural, social, socioeconomic, religious, and/or human effort differences, and the significance of these differences for creating a more just and peaceful community.
5. Through the development of their *Action Plan*, students will focus on the complex problems in their Apostolic Works.
6. Students will be able to gain a deeper sense of self as they contribute their efforts to their Apostolic Works.
7. Students will be able to experience a communitarian presence in their Apostolic Works while acknowledging that their peers are also building up their service site through their own efforts.

GUIDELINES

FIRST SEMESTER

1. Students will engage in a discernment process in their Religion class at the beginning of the year in order to reflect upon their gifts and how those can be utilized in their Apostolic Works.
2. Students will have an opportunity to exercise their stewardship in order to help their communities flourish in *at least one of the following areas of concentration*:

• Faith Life- (Examples: *Parish; Chapel; Synagogue; Mosque; Temple*)

• Human Life & Human Dignity- (Examples: *Elderly; Disabled; Sick; Children/Adults with Autism & Special Needs; Bullying; Eating Disorder Advocacy; Respect for Life clinics; Health Walks; Educational Leadership; Sports & Recreational Assistance; YMCA; Boys & Girls Club; The Arts; Immigration*)

• Economic Life- (Examples: *Homelessness; Poor and Underprivileged; Food Banks*)

• Ecology, Environmental Life, and Animals- (Examples: *Beach clean-ups; City clean-ups; Water conservation; Recycling Projects; Gardening Projects; Animal Shelters; Guide Dog Training*)

• Promotion of Peace (Examples: *Peace Walks; Museums that promote Peace; Operation Gratitude; Community Centers*)

3. Students will reflect upon their passion of interest from *at least one of the areas of concentration* and will research a non-profit organization where they can offer their service.
4. Students will develop an *Action Plan* in their Religion class that will demonstrate the following:
 - a. Their understanding of community and its relevance to the area that they have chosen (*Include information about the site: issues, challenges, needs, and examination of their preconceptions and assumptions*).
 - b. How their gifts will be applied to their Apostolic Works.
 - c. The goals that they desire to meet in their Apostolic Works.
5. Students will submit their *Action Plan* to their Religion teacher as a graded assignment by mid-September.

6. Students will be commissioned at the Apostolic Works Liturgy scheduled in September.
7. Students will apply their gifts to their Apostolic Works. Tracking and verification of hours will be done through Naviance/x2VOL.
8. Students will fulfill a minimum of **7.5 hours of service by the Semester 1 due date**. Students will record service through Naviance/x2VOL for tracking and reflection purposes.

SECOND SEMESTER

1. *Progress Monitoring*: Service Learning engages students in an ongoing process to assess their Apostolic Works and progress toward meeting their specified goals from their *Action Plan*. Therefore, students will engage in reflection/processing as deemed appropriate through Religion class.
2. Students will continue to contribute their gifts to their Apostolic Works and will fulfill, record, and have verified their remaining **7.5 hours of service by the Semester 2 due date** through Naviance/x2VOL.
3. Once hours have been completed, students will process their Apostolic Works experience by engaging in a *Celebration of Service Forum* in their Religion class that will consist of the following:
 - a. A written 1-2 page *Final Reflection* paper based on the following criteria:
 - i. The Apostolic Works site, its mission, and issue(s) at hand.
 - ii. Its relevance to the purpose of *Building a Community*.
 - iii. Its relevance to Chaminade's Graduation Outcomes.
 - iv. The preconceptions and assumptions they had about their Apostolic Works.
 - v. The service provided to their Apostolic Works and how they have grown as a result of this experience.
 - vi. How they met their learning objectives.
 - b. Students will be placed in a group according to one of the *areas of concentration* that they have selected for their Apostolic Works assignment and will discuss their *Final Reflection*.

Students will submit their *Final Reflection* paper to their Religion teacher as a graded assignment in May. A Reflection cannot be completed if the student has not completed all of their hours.