

# Creative Response Assignment

Complete one of the following:

1. *PRAYER REFLECTION.* After reflecting on your Service Project, write a prayer for the service program. This expression of your personal experiences should be a true reflection of your feelings. Some thematic suggestions are:
  - a. For all those in need
  - b. For a specific need as experienced in your placement
  - c. For one needy person you met through your project
  - d. For a Marist student about to begin his/her project
  - e. For a Marist student during his/her project
  - f. For a Marist student at the completion of his/her project
  - g. Choose your own theme, appropriate to your experience
  
2. *POETIC EXPRESSION.* After reflecting on your Service Project, write a poem which expresses some aspect of your experience. Possible themes include: service, suffering, oppression, hope, courage, equality, dignity, etc.
  
3. *ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.* Draw a picture that expresses one aspect of your Christian service experience. Do the best your artistic talent provides, but most important is meaningfulness.

# Reflection Paper Guidelines

The Christian Service Experience, in order to be the growing experience it is meant to be, provides for both action and reflection on your part. The active part was your 50 hours of service to those most in need. The journal provided for ongoing reflection and this paper requirement is meant to give you the opportunity to look back and to learn from your service by reflective evaluation. This will allow you to draw your experiences and insights together into a comprehensive whole, and to formulate your personal vision of what it means to be a Christian today.

This paper should be three full typewritten, double-spaced pages. A title page is optional. The paper should be an honest reflection upon your service experience, following this topical breakdown and based on the questions provided.

## **A. A Brief Description** (1/2 page)

Describe the service that you performed. Where did you serve? Whom did you serve? What was the greatest need that you saw? How was this need an issue of justice?

## **B. An Evaluation** (1 1/2 - 2 pages)

Discuss how your experience affected your perception of yourself, others, God, and the call to Christian service. Support your conclusions with specific examples of what you observed and experienced. Use the following reflective questions to help you formulate your thoughts:

1. How did I view the people I was serving and/or the placement before I began this service project? How has my view changed? What did I learn about other conditions in life? How has this changed my perception of the world?
2. Was there a person that I served that I particularly admired? Why did this person deserve my admiration? What did I learn from this person that I would like to integrate into my own life?
3. How did the agency benefit from my service? Did I make a difference in the lives of the people I met? Please give specific examples.
4. Can I recall any significant positive or negative experience that helped me learn something new about myself? About others? About life? Describe.
5. Relate this service experience to my religious faith. Would Jesus be doing the same volunteer work if he were here today? How did I see Christ through this experience? Did I come to know Christ differently?
6. Do I feel that I was living out the Christian commitment to serve my brothers and sisters in need? Why or why not? How is this important to being a Christian?
7. What did I learn that I can apply to other parts of my life, i.e. future careers, family relationships, etc.

## **C. The Future Question** (1/2 – 1 page)

How do I see myself continuing to respond to issues of justice in the world today? To the needs of people in our society? ... in 5-10 years from now?