

GROWING IN FAITH THROUGH SERVICE

By Emma Roberts, 2018 Frassati Catholic Academy Graduate

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20). This passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew refers to our mission as Catholics: to bear Christ and his good news to the world. We can carry out this mission in our daily actions, but our parish mission trips allow us the opportunity to take time away from our daily routine to serve others in an intentional way.

On mission trips to such places as Belize and Appalachia, parishioners have used their talents to serve those less fortunate. In addition, each year teens and young adults are invited to join together for a week of mission organized by Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC). During this week, the teens repair and paint houses, landscape, spend time with children, and perform many other tasks.

Youth Ministry Coordinator Grant Bright will lead our youth group on CHWC’s mission trip to Knoxville, TN, this summer. A veteran of twelve past mission trips, Grant says, “What draws me to mission is the ability to serve other people. To be able to put a smile on someone’s face doing something for them that they probably can’t do themselves is a special thing. Mission means a whole lot to me. Anytime someone brings up a mission trip, I immediately go back to all of the trips, places, and experiences I have had while doing mission work.”

Pope Francis attests, “The mission of Christians in the world is a mission for all, a mission of service, which excludes no one. There is so much need for Christians who bear witness to the Gospel with joy in everyday life. The disciples, sent by Jesus, ‘returned with joy’. When we do this, our heart fills with joy.” As the Holy Father reminds us, God calls us all to mission, whether at home, across the country, or around the world.

Many volunteers, through their mission work, have found that promised joy, inner peace, and spiritual renewal. For example, Mike Smith, who has chaperoned past CHWC mission trips, describes his experiences, “The CHWC trips combine what we called ‘church camp’ when I was a kid with service work in a community. It is a blend of spiritual renewal for me while also doing great things for others.” He added, “It is an opportunity for our parish youth to come together and become good friends, and it gives me a chance to spend time with my daughters. Each time I have gone to CHWC, I have come back renewed and refreshed spiritually.”



Kaitlyn Vogel and Sydney Szalinski seek donations for the Youth Group’s Mission Trip to Knoxville, Tn.



Joseph Baude performs landscaping work during the 2017 mission trip to Minneapolis, Mn.

“Catholic Heart Work Camp has made me closer to God through prayer and reminded me that there are less fortunate people who are in need. You become closer with so many people and God in general. It is such a great experience!”

Dylan Debord