

Diocesan Week of Service

Participant Reflection Guide

"For the sake of our salvation, it is imperative that we serve others out of love."

- Bishop Malesic, A Flourishing Apostolic Church

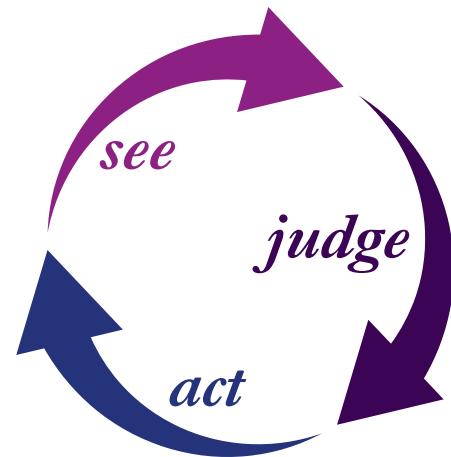
The Church invites us to reflect on service not simply as something we do, but as a place where Christ meets us, forms us, and sends us. Using the Catholic Social Teaching method of See–Judge–Act, also known as the pastoral circle, we encourage you to take time to reflect prayerfully on your experience.

Bishop Malesic writes in his pastoral letter that service must flow from love, not obligation. As we move through this experience, you are encouraged to reflect both on what you are about to do and what you have done once it is completed, through the eyes of love. This opportunity to serve may challenge you. Your expectations may be different than what you experience. We hope you will be attentive to this and reflect on it after your time of service.

Questions are offered for reflection on the following page, guiding you through the pastoral circle. You may choose to reflect on your own, with another person, or in small groups. Select one or two questions to answer, consider all of them, or reflect with your own questions and thoughts. Please do not feel limited by the questions but allow yourself to explore your thoughts and feelings freely.

There are a variety of ways in which you may be serving for the Week of Service. Some ways may engage you in personal contact with those in need. These moments can offer much to reflect on. Other opportunities may not connect you directly, but there are still things to reflect on. Consider who is being served and what your donations or actions may provide. Observe others who are also participating. You can also personalize a donation experience by selecting your favorite items to give or including a card or note with the donation. Regardless of the service you do, reflecting on the experience can help build deep connections between what you do and who you are in Christ.

For more exploration of our Catholic call to love the poor, explore the Bishop's pastoral letter and *Dilexi te*, which can be found on our website.



We are called to attend to the experience and lived reality. It is rooted in encounter rather than abstraction. In seeing, both Pope Leo XIV and Bishop Malesic emphasize concreteness.

- What moments stirred compassion, discomfort, gratitude, resistance, or joy within you? What do those reactions tell you about yourself? Is there any room for conversion?
- Who did you meet – or whose presence stayed with you afterward – and why do you think that person made such an impression?
- Were there any assumptions or expectations you carried into the experience and how were they challenged or shifted through this encounter?

To judge means interpreting the experience considering faith and Catholic Social Teaching. It invites theological meaning-making without moralizing – judgment as discernment, not condemnation.

- In his pastoral letter, Bishop Malesic names service as “central to the mission of the Church,” not optional or secondary. What convinces you and/or still challenges you about the connection between service and evangelization?
- In what ways were you evangelized through service – the people you met, the limits you encountered, or the grace you received?
- Pope Leo XIV cautions against treating the poor as a “problem” rather than as part of our human family (*Dilexi Te*, no. 104). Where do you see this temptation in society – or in yourself? What helps you resist it?

Finally, we are asked to respond through mission, conversion, and commitment. This step goes beyond “doing more” toward deeper discipleship and integration of faith into daily life.

- How might this experience shape the way you live – at home, work, school, parish, or community?
- What is one concrete step you could take to remain connected to this experience rather than letting it fade into memory? Does this help you to identify your own mission? In what ways did this experience help clarify your sense of where the Lord may be sending you?
- The bishop describes the Church as called to be salt, light, and leaven. In what ways did you become salt, light, or leaven during this experience? Where do you feel invited to bring light or hope right now?

Share your *Week of Service*
photos and reflections!
#LoveInActionCLE



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