***St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament***

***Faith Formation Program***

***648 Jay Street***

***Utica, New York 13501***

***(315-724-3950)***

September 2015

Dear Parents & Students,

 In the beginning of our classes each September, I convey to everyone about an important part of our program ~ giving service to others. This is in integral component of Faith Formation as well as it helps our students to become a productive member of our parish and society. It is a way for our young people to practice the gospel messages that they are taught about each week.

 As I have indicated, we require that our students participate in service opportunities for which they need to fill out a time sheet which documents their hours and two reflections about the time that they have spent giving to others. Our program asks for at least 10-15 hours of service – which is not a lot, for students in 7th-9th grades. The 10th grade class has additional hours because of their Confirmation preparation. Over the months of our program, I provide many opportunities as part of our courses, plus I arrange for events that our students can help out here in the parish, such as pizza fritta sales. I am sure that between school and home, there are plenty of ways to get between 10-15 hours of service. We will give the students opportunities to log in their hours each week in the beginning of class so that it is documented (and not forgotten).

 The Service Forms and reflections each year that are filled out by students are saved until Confirmation. I am sending this letter as a reminder to make sure that students take the time to give of themselves to others. Once you complete the hours and forms, they can be handed in any time throughout the year. *Those of you in 8th-10th grades who did not hand it in last year or the year before, you will need to make up the* *extra hours and reflections*. *I will indicate to those who need it and attach* *the necessary forms so that it is completed.* This service begins in 7th grade and continues each year until Confirmation.

 If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can email me at aelacqua@syrdio.org or call me at 941-7447.

Watch for the opportunities that I present…

Respectfully,

Anne P. (Carlone) Elacqua

Jr/Sr High Faith Formation Coordinator

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