

**Paragraphs 1-2: Describe what your service experience was like.**

- What did you choose for your service hours? Why were you interested in this service?
- How did God use your unique gifts and talents?
- What is your attitude about Christian Service? Was it an obligation or something you looked forward to? Did your feelings change over time?
- Did you learn anything about yourself or the people you worked with?
- How did my relationship with Jesus change through this experience?

**Paragraphs 2-3:**

- **Step 1: Choose a source from our tradition that relates to the service you have done. This can be from Scripture, doctrine, the catechism, or Catholic Social Teaching.**
  - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>
  - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>
- **Step 2: Draw correlations between the work that you were doing and our tradition.**
  - What does my faith say about this situation?
    - Example: Through our Catholic faith we learn that men and women have inherent dignity because they are created in God's image and likeness. Serving those who are most in need is a way of honoring their dignity.
  - What do the principles of Catholic Social Teaching say about these structures? The gospel and other parts of scripture?
    - Example 1: Catholic Social Teaching teaches that "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be." By volunteering at PADS, I encountered many people that came from different backgrounds. But through my service I realized the powerful effects of loving others—especially those who are different than me.

- Example 2: Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus spending time with the vulnerable, the sick, the poor, and the dying. Not only does he spend time with them, but he genuinely loves them, and he challenges each of us to do the same. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples “whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me” (Matthew 25:40). This particular verse always encourages me to tend to the needs of others and to see Jesus in every person I encounter.
- Example 3: Working at the Soup Kitchen was very challenging because it was difficult to see so many people in need. It seemed unfair children and adults should have to go without food or adequate clothing and shelter. I began to wonder where God was in the midst of all this, how he felt about their suffering. But then I reflected on Jesus dying on the cross—enduring some of the most excruciating forms of suffering out of love for us—and I know he is with them and understand their pain. Though seeing someone in poverty is uncomfortable and challenging, I know that is important to be generous and loving to them for we read “Whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17)

**Paragraphs 4-5: How are you going to use what you have learned to live as a disciple in a particular vocation/career?**

- How did God use my gifts? Did I discover any new gifts/talents?
- In light of my analysis and reflection on faith experiences, what is God calling me to do as a vocation or career later on in life?
- What are concrete possibilities of action for me -- short term and long term; individual and system-wide that will lead to this vocation?
- Instead of asking what do I want to be when I grow up, what does God want you to do as a vocation or career when you grow up?