

H.O.P.E.
c/o Caruso
26 Adele Lane
Bronxville, New York 10708

October 2017

Dear 8th grade students and parents:

We are writing to you as co-chairs of the H.O.P.E. program at St. Joseph's Church to encourage participation in a program to feed the needy and hungry. Students who are preparing for Confirmation can volunteer to cook 10-12 servings of a main course meal. Generally, the meals involve ground beef or chicken, a starch and a frozen vegetable. We will provide the dates, a list of the required meals and a recipe book to each student.

Participation in this H.O.P.E. opportunity is an approved community service activity by the Office of Religious Education. Confirmation candidates will earn 2.5 service hours for preparing entrees on 6 dates that will be given to each candidate between the months of October and April for a total of 15 hours.

H.O.P.E. is an acronym for "Help Our People Eat" and it has been a vibrant and important ministry at St. Joseph's Church for over 20 years. Each month, St. Joseph's is responsible for supplying the dinner meal for 120-150 people on 2 or 3 Wednesdays of each month. Each dinner consists of a designated entrée, starch and vegetable. Volunteers also contribute salad and dessert.

H.O.P.E. was started by a woman who witnessed hungry people eating the remains of breakfast foods and coffee that had been thrown away by train commuters each morning. This woman began serve coffee and day-old pastries to those in need. From these humble beginnings, H.O.P.E. has grown to be a full service organization providing meals, housing assistance, job skills and mental health services to its clients.

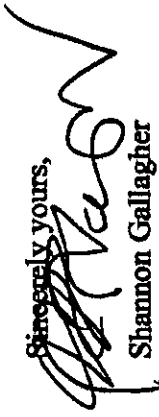
All food must be dropped off in the Parish Center and placed into the H.O.P.E. coolers between **8 a.m. and 2 p.m.** Students will be expected to participate in the H.O.P.E. rotation on all of the assigned delivery dates. Those who fail to deliver their designated meals on a designated date, without obtaining permission and reassignment from a H.O.P.E. coordinator, will be dismissed from further participation.

All students desiring to join the H.O.P.E. Confirmation service hour program should contact Mrs. Gallagher by e-mail. Specific details will be provided. Candidates are expected to label contributions and to maintain a log detailing their efforts in order to receive 12 service hours.

This is a unique opportunity for students to perform a part of their community service through "hands on" activities that will feed some of the most needy members of our local community. The benefits will be immeasurable for each student as he/she prepares to become an adult member of our Church.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for your interest and support of the H.O.P.E. ministry.

Sincerely yours,



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