



Hello, Faculty!

*2025/2026: The **First Step To Service Program** has been designed with activities and age-appropriate learning opportunities to accommodate two levels of learning - for students (K-6/8) and grades (9-12).*

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year, we are reminded of our call to be Pilgrims of Hope, carrying the light of Christ into the world through faith and service. The **First Step to Service Program** invites students in Catholic schools to take part in this journey by living out the Gospel through acts of compassion, kindness, and love. Rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church and aligned with the vision of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), this curriculum helps students grow in faith, discover their dignity, and become witnesses of hope in their schools, families, and communities.

The curriculum is centered around the theme "**Serving in Faith, Walking in Love**". Principals are encouraged to foster a school culture where service is woven into both learning and daily routines. Teachers can incorporate this theme by connecting classroom lessons to Gospel values, highlighting examples of saints and modern-day witnesses of hope, and encouraging students to see acts of kindness as expressions of their faith.

Simple practices—such as beginning the day with a prayer for others, reflecting on opportunities to serve during religion class, or organizing small service projects within the school—help students recognize that faith is lived out not only in church, but also in the way they treat one another each day.

our "why"

- A strengthening of the connection between Catholic Charities and school-aged youth.
- Opportunities for students to deepen their faith.
- Cultivation of service-minded young people.

