

## **Holy Family Parish High School Religious Education**

### **Service Opportunity at Cor Unum in Lawrence**

*Each Level 1 Student is expected to go twice (between June 2011 and May 2012)*

**Summer dates:** June 13, July 11, August 8, August 29

**School Year dates:** September 12, October 10, October 31, November 14, December 12, January 9, January 30, February 13, March 12, April 9, April 30, May 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and select 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month)

**Participants:** 7 or 8 students and 2 or 3 adults (please travel in two vehicles) - adults need to have completed the Virtus training and have a current CORI on file with the parish.

**When and Where to Meet:** Our group will gather in the parking lot of the Holy Family Parish **Church in Concord Center** at 3:15pm (we need to get to Cor Unum by 4:00pm). We will return to the same location around 7:30pm.

**Missing your Group:** Your group will be waiting for you, so if an emergency arises, it is important that you call Tony at the office (978-369-7442, or call someone on the trip that is also going) no later than 3:00pm. Otherwise, the group will be waiting for you at the church.

**Once you arrive:** Check in with the front desk (probably the person who will greet you is Peggy), leave your belongings in their back room, and meet Donna who usually organizes the dining room on Monday nights. Please leave any cell phones in the car or with your things inside - do not keep them on your person.

**What the Service Work is About:** The purpose of our high school religious education service activities is to experience what it means to live as a Catholic Christian today. Through the people you encounter and the work you do, you live the Gospel and experience Christian community.

Cor Unum has served hundreds of people each day since they opened their doors in the fall of 2006. The experience is unique - their facility is new and well-kept, guests are greeted, seated at tables, and served by wait staff (volunteers) rather than going through a meal line. Specific tables are designated for children who come on their own.

Guests at Cor Unum typically include the working poor, families with children, children without parents at home during meal time, the unemployed, the homeless, seniors, and those living with mental or emotional illnesses.

#### **For more information about Cor Unum:**

Go to their website: [www.corunummealcenter.org](http://www.corunummealcenter.org)

Go to [www.labelsareforjars.org](http://www.labelsareforjars.org) (the fundraiser for Cor Unum) and find the link from the Today Show under "In the news" – this is an outstanding video from NBC News

### **Doing the Volunteer Work at Cor Unum:**

For this service work, you should dress comfortably, modestly, and bring something to cover your head. Shorts/skirts must be knee-length. Please do not wear jewelry (simple earrings are okay). Open-toe shoes are not allowed, and long hair must be tied back. It is best to wear a hat, a t-shirt, and sneakers. You will likely wear an apron during the service work.

Volunteers will be asked to serve food to guests at Cor Unum (must be 14 years old to serve a table), as well as participate in a number of other tasks in the distribution of food (such as dishwashing, busing tables, etc). At Cor Unum, guests are served by volunteers (us and others) rather than going through a cafeteria line.

Once guests finish coming in, volunteers are able to rotate through and have dinner as well. Ideally, our students can sit in pairs with some of the guests.

Please treat each guest with respect and courtesy. Bring to your volunteer service an attitude of open-mindedness. Try to be non-judgmental. Consider as confidential all information that you may hear directly or indirectly concerning guests. Keep your interactions with guests professional, meaning that you would not give guests money, gifts, rides, invitations to your home, or your address or phone number. Please do not accept gifts from guests. Some guests at Cor Unum need additional sensitivity, as they struggle with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, family difficulties, and other struggles.

*Cor Unum also wants us to know (excerpts from their handbook):*

- We cannot take pictures of Cor Unum or its guests.
- We are expected to report unsafe situations and injuries to a supervisor.
- They welcome any suggestions or comments.

**Notes for Adult Leaders:** It is necessary to have two adults present, in case of an emergency of any type requiring someone to leave. Please collect the permission forms and keep them with you until the end of the service. When returning to Concord, both adults need to stay until all the kids have been picked up by their parents. Please have one adult collect all the permission forms who can bring them to the office in West Concord, or give them to Tony at the next class session.

### **Getting to the Cor Unum Meal Center:**

Phone Number: 978-688-8900

191 Salem Street

Lawrence, MA 01843-1427

The trip to Cor Unum takes about 35-45 minutes depending on traffic and which way you choose to go. There are many ways to get from the center of Concord to Lawrence - going through Carlisle, using Route 2 West to I-495, or going through Bedford. Make sure the drivers have agreed on which way to go. See separate handout for further directions.