

Youth Service Awards

– Affirming youth (ages 14 – 25) exhibiting Catholic Social Teaching in Action –

- **Charles Lwanga Award:** exhibiting concern for human dignity
- **Martin de Porres Award:** exhibiting solidarity with others
- **Mother Teresa Award:** exhibiting concern for the poor
- **Francis of Assisi Award:** exhibiting concern for the environment

- Each of these awards may be bestowed annually by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, usually at the St. Augustine Dinner in August. Each winner will be given a certificate and EC\$100.
- Nominations are to be submitted by July 15th to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre
- A panel of judges will review the nominations and make choices for each award
- Criteria for each award will be distributed throughout the archdiocese and any Catholic may nominate according to the criteria

General criteria:

- The Youth Service Awards are rooted in Catholic social teaching exhibited by social action. They seek to recognize and affirm young people who are positively and practically living out social action.
- An award may be given to a single person. If the service/action was implemented by a group, the group may be acknowledged but only one monetary award will be given. Age range for nominations is 14 – 25.
- The reason for nomination must have been exhibited in the last 12 months or longer.
- The Youth Service Awards celebrate the unsung young heroes in your community – do not nominate a young person who has previously received an award for the same activity.
- Please only nominate one person from your community in each category. If you are in a school, it may be worth checking with other teachers before submitting an application in case they have already nominated the same or another person for the Awards.
- All nominees will receive a certificate to recognize their nomination and their achievements.

What is the panel of judges looking for?

- It's more than the number of hours the young person has volunteered for. It's about the way they are living out their social action.
- It's not all about money – fundraising for charity is great, but how does the young person you are nominating demonstrate he/she is engaging and/or educating themselves and others with the wider issues in order to make a positive difference? For example, an awareness campaign around the causes of littering in addition to fundraising for environmental clean-up.
- The judges will be looking at how the young person nominated has demonstrated that the initiative was theirs and not carrying out the ideas of a youth leader or teacher.
- What has the young person done to go above and beyond? This does not have to be 'extraordinary' on the surface. You will know young people who go above and beyond in many ways. For example, a young person living in such circumstances that managing to get to school in the morning is an achievement in itself. In addition, the young person demonstrates service freely chosen to benefit others.

Nomination Tips:

The Charles Lwanga Award – exhibits concern for human dignity

Do you know a young person who is a young caregiver, who manages to care for a parent or a sibling and still come to school/work each day without complaint?

Perhaps you know a young person who consistently puts the dignity of others before themselves.

Or maybe a young person who is dedicated to working to improve the lives of people living with disabilities? Who advocates for greater awareness of the disabled in the parish or community?

Perhaps a young person who consistently shows respect to all in the parish or village by greetings and offers of assistance when that is appropriate?

The Martin de Porres Award – exhibits solidarity with others

Do you know a young person who works to overcome violence in their local community? Perhaps they've expanded this action to campaign for peace on a national scale.

Maybe you know a young adult who strives to foster reconciliation in their community, bringing enemies together and healing communities, or a young person who has a passion to end bullying in their community.

Has someone shown true leadership and led a group of their peers to participate in social action in the community?

Perhaps they have a passion for reading and spearheaded a campaign to establish or upgrade a local library.

Maybe there is a student who is exceptionally involved in the school and is always there to support other students with their studies?

Do you know a young person who consistently leads others in prayer for those who have committed crime as well as those who are victims of crime?

The Mother Teresa Award – exhibits concern for the poor

Do you know a young person who's led an SVP group to spend time with the elderly outside of school hours?

Do you know a young person who strives to put the poorest in their community first? A young person who gives up their time to volunteer in their parish food pantry or in a local feeding programme for the homeless?

Perhaps you know a young person who works tirelessly to tackle the causes of poverty, or a group who have built up awareness of the poor and efforts to assist them.

Maybe you know a young person who regularly visits homebound elderly in their village and may even pray with them.

The Francis of Assisi Award – exhibits concern for the environment

Do you know a young person who's led a conservation project? Or maybe they have led a beach or river clean-up or a village trash clean-up.

Maybe they've researched the value and impact of energy efficiency measures or investigated the possibilities of recycling in the Parish, then shared that learning with their school or parish.

Form of the nomination – typed nominations will greatly assist the judges

Indicate the title of the specific award category in which you are nominating.

Give the name and contact information of the young person you are nominating.

Give your name and contact information and your relationship to the person nominated.

Describe what the person has done in the last 12 months (or longer), explaining how this action or service demonstrates the criteria for the award. This should be no more than 500 words in length.

Submissions

Submissions (by July 15th) may be brought to the Pastoral Centre in Marisule or may be sent by postal service (PO Box GM592 Castries) or may be emailed to the Pastoral Centre (pastoralct@gmail.com or nosbischf@osfdbq.org). For further information, call 452-0790/6 or Sr. Frances at 723-4537.