

AWARD REFLECTION GUIDELINES

POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

Published: August 2019

To achieve the Pope John Paul II Award, you are required to complete parish and social awareness activities each week. When the full hours of both strands are completed you are asked to reflect on what the Award has meant to you, how you've used your talents, your intellect and your social skills for the well-being of others and for the Glory of God.

The reflection may be written or an interview. If an interview, it must be conducted by your Award Leader, recorded and transcribed. If a written reflection, it should be submitted to your Award Leader.

The reflection should include:

1. An answer to the question - What does it mean to you to be a baptised member of the Church?
(250 words as guidance)

The following points can be used to guide your answer:

- Your life in the Church community began at Baptism. Baptism is a beginning not an end, it is an invitation to live our lives as active members of the body of Christ and as such it demands a response from us.
- At Baptism we are initiated into God's family, each of us are baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit but Jesus also encourages us to "Go and make disciples of all nations; baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19)
- By participating in the Pope John Paul II Award you can respond to Christ's challenge when He said "You will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria, but to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

2. A personal reflection and evaluation on your parish involvement and social awareness work.
(800 words as guidance)

This is an opportunity for you to review your activities in the parish involvement and social awareness strands of the Award. It is where you describe what you did, where, how often and your personal reflection on the activity, perhaps including fears, challenges, confidence, skills and feedback you received.

3. Your reflection on how the teachings of Christ are relevant to your chosen activities.
(250 words as guidance)

This is an opportunity for you to relate the Word of God to your Award activities. Visiting a residential home, the care of the elderly and vulnerable, reading at Mass, cleaning the church, Eucharistic minister, raising funds for charity, can all be related to scripture. For example, visiting a residential home can be related to Christ's teaching in the 'Last Judgement' Mt 25: 31-46 where he says "when I was sick you visited me".

4. Conclusion
(200 words as guidance)

How has completing the Award helped you to understand and appreciate the contribution that young people can make within the Church today.