

April – Virtue of the Month: Justice

April Week 1 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Justice

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

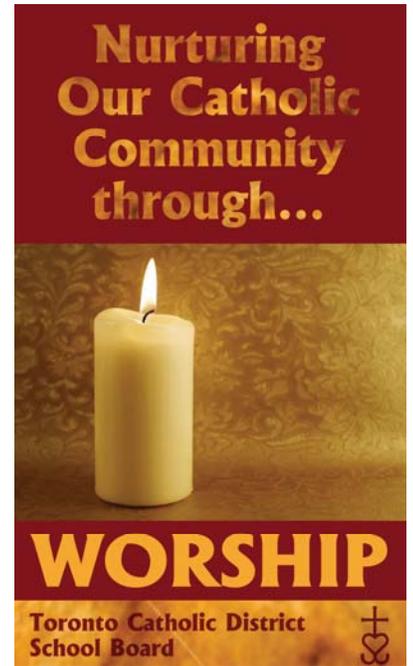
The Virtue of the Month for April is Justice. One of the incidents of the Old Testament Scripture that has profoundly impacted Christian believers in our times is the moment when God says to Moses: “I have seen the miserable state of my people.... I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their suffering.” (Exodus 3:7) As we grow and learn and experience something of the dramatic inequalities and oppressions in our world these words find resonance. For our Scriptures reveal something of the passion of our God as One who is engaged in the distress and suffering of the world – upset and angry at oppression, urging conversion, committed to change, and calling each one of us to engage and to walk the road to freedom.

For courage and imagination in creating a world of justice and peace. We pray to You, Lord.
(Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For freedom from the barriers that block the emergence of a more just society - our collective greed and our constant state of distraction. We pray to You, Lord. (Response..)

Let us pray an Our Father together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



April Week 2 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Justice

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

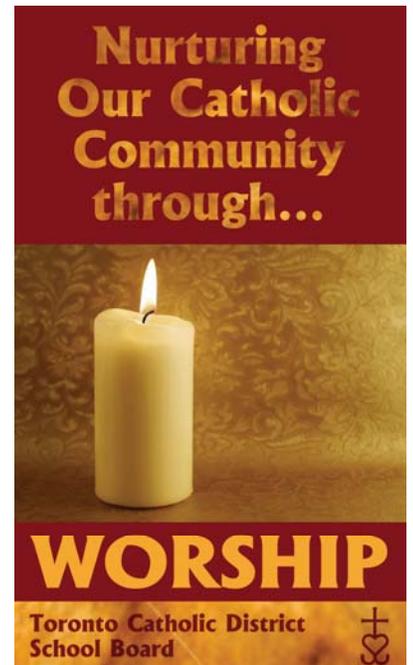
As Christians we are called to global awareness, and to join in the global struggle for justice and peace. A stream of Catholic Church teachings from the time of Pope Leo XIII in the late 19th century right through to the writings of Pope Benedict XVI have brought our attention to that call. The oppressions caused by the imbalances of wealth in the world, the on-going struggles of particular peoples for dignity and human rights, the degradation of our environment, and many other issues, demand our attention, our reflection and our on-going action and commitment. We may feel that as individuals we can do little of value, but when we join with others in solidarity we realize we share an important part in doing God's work in the world.

For the engagement of all people – young and old – in the struggle for global justice. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

That we may live simply, so that others may simply live. We pray to You, Lord. (Response..)

Let us pray a Hail Mary together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



April Week 3 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Justice

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

One of the most dramatic moments in the Gospel of Luke takes place when Jesus returns to Nazareth as a young adult, goes into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, unrolls the scroll and reads the excerpt from the prophet Isaiah where it says: “The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me, He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor.”

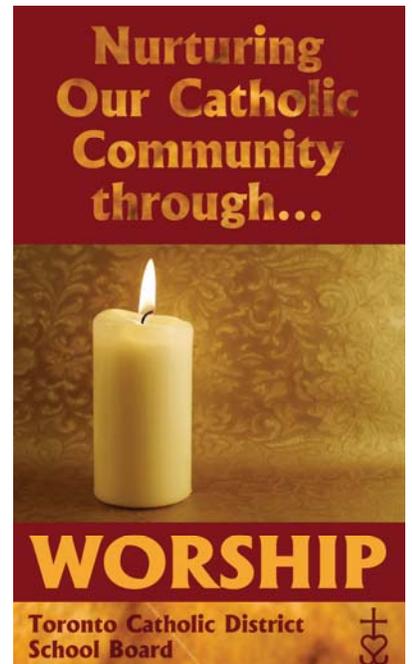
Each one of us who are baptized share in that call. In fact it is a call that finds an echo inside each human heart. The task seems impossible because the challenges are so gigantic, yet the vision of Jesus of a world where all peoples experience freedom, dignity and profound respect is one that sustains us for the struggle, nourishes our hope, and slates our thirst for a dream that is worthy of our dignity and the future of our world.

For a sense of solidarity with all those who struggle for justice and hope. We pray to You, Lord.
(Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For a faith that does justice. We pray to You, Lord. (Response...)

Let us pray a Glory Be together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



April Week 4 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Justice

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated in San Salvador in March 1980 during the celebration of Mass. Decades later, people of faith turn to him still as an exemplary follower of Jesus in our own era, a prophet of justice who paid the ultimate price for speaking truth to power in a land where the poor were marginalized and persecuted. Our lives may not scale the dramatic risks taken by Jesus and Archbishop Romero but their abilities - to announce truth, to denounce injustice, to plead the case for the widow, the marginalized, the orphan, the oppressed of the age – these abilities remind us of our own talents, of our own innate hunger for truth and justice, and of our capacity and call to be people of action.

For freedom from all the biases that block us from engaging in working for justice in our world. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For courage, clarity and perseverance in speaking truth to power in all our different situations. We pray to You, Lord. (Response..)

Let us pray an Our Father together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

