

Overview of the Virtue of Charity

The virtue of Charity means being generous with our presence, time, and money. Charity allows us to give freely without expecting anything in return. The virtue of Charity is an essential sign of faith. Jewish and Christian ethics are built upon charitable acts and deeds.

The virtue of charity encompasses a range of small acts and habits that affects our own immediate surroundings as well as the larger global community. It can be as simple as giving someone a smile or it can be expressed on a larger scale through raising funds for world organizations such as Development and Peace or Free the Children. It applies not just to our personal relationships with other people, but also extends to things, animals, plants, and the Earth.

All creation is interrelated. Charity allows us to see how we are connected to others through time and space. We have a responsibility to nurture, support, and be in solidarity with those around us.

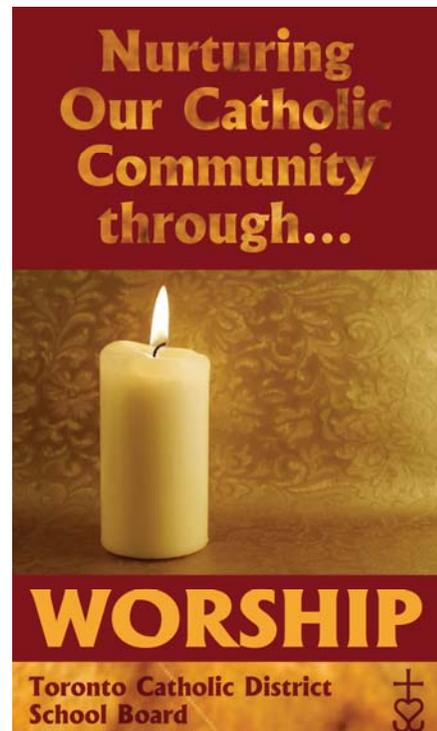
Exploring Your Inner Self: Why the virtue of charity might be for you

If you are...

- Self-absorbed
- Acting unkindly or in nasty ways
- Thinking only of your needs
- Stingy with your time, and material objects
- Neglectful of or indifferent to the needs of others

Then you may wish to explore the virtue of charity....

- Charity allows you to give to others
- Charity allows you to share your time and talents with others
- Charity brings the world close to home
- Charity allows you to make a positive difference



Modelling the Virtue of Charity: The Catholic Community Award

Modelling Forgiveness: The Catholic Community Award

The Catholic Community Award:

The Catholic Community Award is a monthly award given to students who may be the “unsung heroes” of our community. They are the students whose daily efforts contribute to nurturing our Catholic school communities. The Catholic Community Award is based on the monthly virtues. As a suggestion, you may want to recognize these students in homeroom, at assemblies, during school liturgies, or in school newsletters, school websites. This can be a whole school project, a monthly initiative, or a nomination process by teachers and peers.

The Catholic Community Award: Criteria for the Virtue of Charity

- ✓ students who demonstrate generosity with their time and energy
- ✓ students who participate in school wide initiatives related to charity
- ✓ students who lend a helping hand
- ✓ students who give to others without expecting anything in return