

May – Virtue of the Month: Compassion

May Week 1 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month – Compassion

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

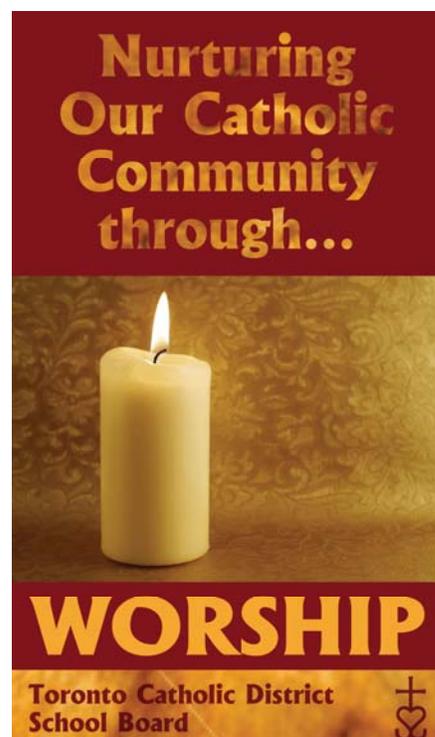
The Virtue of the Month for May is Compassion. “ The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.” These were the opening words of the Second Vatican Council Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, published almost fifty years ago. This special document reminded those in our faith tradition of the reality of the interdependence that binds us, that no one of us is an island, that no community sits in either abandoned or glorious isolation, that we live in solidarity with all people, especially the marginalized, and that the cries of the poor echo the voice of Christ. We need to stay tuned to that voice, allow it to influence our minds, to soften our hearts, and to live inside our souls.

That our personal relationships and attitudes will be underlined by the virtue of compassion. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer)

That our Catholic Education communities will witness to the compassionate heart of Christ. 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



May Week 2 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Compassion

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

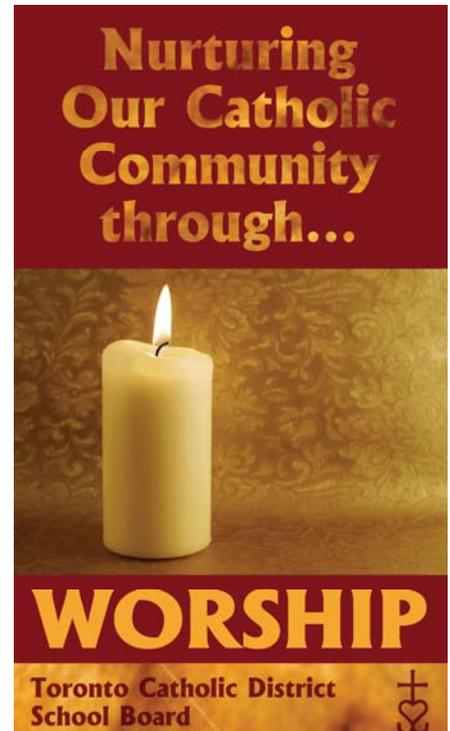
One of the distinguishing characteristics of our faith tradition within contemporary culture is the manner in which it affirms deep rooted respect for life. This witness flows from the view that each human person has an indescribable value and dignity, being created in the image and likeness of God, blessed with freedom, and destined for an eternity of fullness in the heart of God. Whether on the streets of Calcutta or the communities of L'Arche, in the prison chaplaincies for those on death row, or on the Parliament Hill in Ottawa each May in recent years, people of the Catholic faith wish to be connected in a special way with the voiceless, the dependent, and the most vulnerable. The promptings of the Holy Spirit guide us in the way of solidarity and compassion.

That by the grace of God we will remain steady in our compassion for all people despite the many challenges to be faced. We pray to You, Lord.
(Response: Lord, hear our prayer)

That the marginalized and poor will experience the joy of the gospel and the genuine compassion of the followers of Christ. 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



May Week 3 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month – Compassion

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

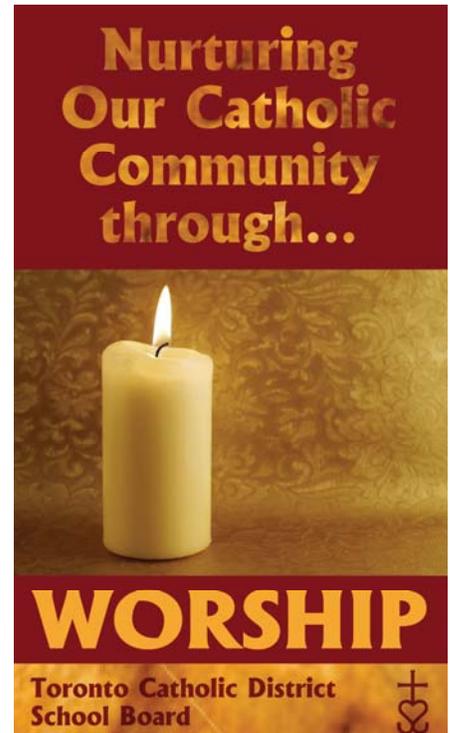
The Gospel of John tells us that at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee when the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, Mary, the mother of Jesus, noticed this and told her son of the situation. Jesus responded by providing an abundance of wine for the occasion. It says in the Gospel that this was the first of the signs given by Jesus, and that ‘he let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.’ (John 2:11) The story underlines the sense of fellow-feeling that is found in the person of Jesus and in his mother Mary. Sometimes we may want to walk away from situations in which we have the power to make a difference; we can close off our sympathy and our sense of solidarity. But the example of the Gospel always points us in the way of fullness, generosity of response and compassion.

For generosity of heart in all the situations we meet. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For sensitivity to the needs of those around us in all the connections we make each day. 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



May Week 4 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Compassion

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

As we are aware from the Scarboro Mission Poster on the topic, the Golden Rule - that we should do unto others what we would have them do to ourselves - finds expression in all the great religions of the world. The Golden Rule is a “rule” because when it is not followed there results various forms of chaos, conflict, confusion, resentment, hatred, violence, and war. The Rule is “golden” because it is like a precious metal – durable, beautiful, desirable and of great value. The rule hinges on our ability to walk in another person’s shoes – to view life from their perspective, to take ownership of what is happening to the person at the other end of the line. This ability is built into us humans. We may censor it, deny it, avoid it, but the health of our society and world depends on our willingness to free up our well springs of empathy and compassion.

For the freedom to allow compassion and love to guide our decisions and initiatives. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

That the on-going dialogue between the religions of the world will always be carried forward in an atmosphere of compassion. 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

