SEPTEMBER

Virtue: HOSPITALITY

Overview of the Virtue of Hospitality

- Hospitality is shown when we welcome guests — including strangers and enemies — into our lives with kindness.
- Sometimes hospitality requires that we cross boundaries and reduce some of the barriers established in our society to keep "the other" out because we believe in the ultimate dignity of every living being.

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation -- I CARE!

A Caring Family Member Who:

- Relates to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner. OCSGE 6(a)
- Recognizes human intimacy and sexuality as God given gifts, to be used as the creator intended. OCSGE (b)
- Values and honors the important role of the family in society. OCSGE 6(c)
- Values and nurtures opportunities for family prayer. 6(d)
- Ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service. OCSGE 6(e)

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching - HUMAN DIGNITY
In a world warped by materialism and declining respect for human life, the Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES, ADDITIONAL REFERENCES, AND DISCUSSION STARTERS**

**HOSPITALITY**

**I CARE!**

“Ministers to the family, school, parish and wider community through service.” OCSGE 6(e)

**HUMAN DIGNITY**

**Faith - Scripture Passages:**

- Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honour that people like him deserves. *(Philippians 2:29)*
- All are one in Christ. *(Galatians 3:28)*
- As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. *(Joshua 24:15(b))*

**Additional References:**

- “In a time where there is little reverence for the image of God in the human person, we are summoned to care for human life with an ultimate respect.” *(This Moment of Promise)*

**Discussion Starters:**

- Reflect upon a time when you were treated by a family member in a loving, compassionate and caring way.
- Discuss a time when you were welcomed into a new group or into someone’s home. What did your peers and/or hosts do to make you feel at ease? Then reflect upon how you can be hospitable in other settings, such as at school, work or in your community.
- Discuss a time when a group to which you belonged excluded someone from membership because they were different. How do you feel about this action?
- I may be aware of the ways that my talents and gifts can help me to get a job and make a living or make me popular, but, how can I use the gifts that I have to create a better place, starting with my home, then my school, my community and finally my world.
• Reflect upon what it means to be a caring family member who respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.

• How is being a caring family member bringing you closer to living a life in the light of the Gospel values?

• Read the Matthew 25:31-46, the Parable of the Last Judgment. Brainstorm, in groups of 4-5, how we can, in a very practical way, live out Christ’s commands to feed, comfort, welcome, support those in need in our own families.

• Coming down to practical and particularly urgent consequences, this council lays stress on reverence for man [sic.]; everyone must consider his every neighbour without exception as another self, taking into account first of all His life and the means necessary to living it with dignity, so as not to imitate the rich man who had no concern for the poor man Lazarus.

In our times a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbour of every person without exception, and of actively helping him when he comes across our path, whether he be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign labourer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, a child born of an unlawful union and wrongly suffering for a sin he did not commit, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of the Lord, "As long as you did it for one of these the least of my brethren, you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Gaudium et Spes, (The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)

➢ How have Catholic schools recognized the essential link between our concern for the family and our concerns for our neighbour?

➢ Describe a time when your efforts to assist a family were rejected? How did it make you feel? Did it change the way you dealt with similar situations?
FAITH IN ACTION – ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS

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The following Catholic Schools are among some which have received Speak Up Grants from the Ministry of Education. These Catholic Schools from around the province illustrated “Faith in Action” in their schools through various clubs and activities. May they serve to spark inspiration and innovation in your school, as your Catholic Community lives out the call “to care for human life with an ultimate respect.” (This Moment of Promise)

- **Title: Get REAL (Rebuilding Equity Attitude & Leadership)**

  **REFLECTION ON ACTIVITY:** How did Jesus show inclusivity in his words and actions? How might we imitate Jesus in our daily lives and as a school community with regard to our interactions and welcoming/acceptance of others who are “different”?

  **Description:** Student leaders invited 20 students from their 18 feeder schools to join them in planning a “Get REAL (Rebuilding Equity Attitude & Leadership) conference for Grade 6 and 7 students. The goal of the conference was to build a school community for newcomers, create friendships through understanding differences and help dispel the misconceptions many students bring to their first years of high school. Guest speaker Alvin Law, who lives with a disability, was the keynote speaker, and workshops addressed issues such as racism, stereotypes, religion, socio-economics, ageism, disabilities, body image and learning styles. At lunchtime, the school’s culinary class provided a barbecue for all in attendance. At the end of the day, participants had a wide range of new ideas and learning to take back to their schools and share with other students.

  **Project Type:** Student-Led Teacher-Facilitated
  **Grade(s) Impacted:** 6, 7, 11, 12
:**Title: Take A Stand - Class Activity**

**REFLECTION ON ACTIVITY:** The Catholic Church proclaims that the dignity of the person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. The following questions prompt students to reflect on what it means to support and promote the dignity of each individual and to speak up when that dignity is not being respected.

Place a line down the middle of the classroom and establish that one side is **I agree** and the other is **I disagree**. Make a series of statements to the class and students move to the side they feel best suits their response to the statement. If students are comfortable they may share reasons for or against with their classmates.

**Guiding Statements:**

1. Roles within families should be distributed equally.
2. Teenagers have little to contribute to family life.
3. There are more stereotypes placed upon non-traditional families than there are on traditional ones.
4. A caring family member is one who puts other’s needs before their own.
5. A caring family member is more apt to contribute more to home, school and parish than those who take family for granted.

**Other ideas you can try!**

- Volunteer to be part of a “welcome wagon” project in your community.
- Sharing a meal is a traditional way of extending hospitality. If possible, invite a new friend to sit with you during lunch today!
FAITH BASED MEDIA LINKS

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Salt and Light Link:

God’s Doorkeeper
St. André of Montreal

http://saltandlighttv.org/brotherandre/
http://saltandlighttv.org/brotherandre/videos.php#highschool

- Video: Reflection on Brother Andre

Other Media links:

- Rick Hoyt you-tube - Ironman Triathlon:
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDnrLv6z-mM

- Building a Windmill/Harnessing the Wind – William Kamkwamba
  http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/william_kamkwamba_on_building_a_windmill.html

- World Family Organization
  www.worldfamilyorganization.org
FAITH PRAYERS AND AFFIRMATIONS

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HUMAN DIGNITY

Prayers:

- **Faith, Hope and Charity Prayer**

  Loving God, we pray that the Toronto Catholic District School Board community continue to witness to the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

  May we be people of FAITH, always willing to follow the example of Jesus in all that we do.

  May we be people of HOPE, always trusting in your loving presence in our lives.

  May we be people of CHARITY, always willing to give of ourselves to better the lives of others.

- **The Guest House**

  *This being human is a guest house.*
  Every morning is a new arrival.
  A joy, a depression, a meanness,
  some momentary awareness comes
  as an unexpected visitor.
  Welcome and entertain them all! Rumi

- **Who Am I? A Prayer for all Women** *(By: Elizabeth Tapia)*

  I am a woman
  I am alive
  I am struggling
  I am hoping

  I am created in the image of God
  just like all other people in the world;
  I am a person with worth and dignity.
I am a thinking person, a feeling person, a doing person.
I am the small I am that stands before the great I AM.

I am a worker who is constantly challenged, faced with the needs of the church and society and the global community.
I am angered by the structures and powers that create all forms of oppression, exploitation and degradation.
I am a witness to the moans, tears, banners and clenched fists of my people.
I can hear their liberating songs, their hopeful prayers and decisive march toward justice and freedom.

I believe that all women and men, young and old, Christian and non-Christian are called upon to do responsible action;
to be concerned
to be involved
NOW!

I am hoping I am struggling
I am alive
I am a woman.

- **The Letter to the Hebrews (13:2)** in the New Testament contains the same advice:
  *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,*
  *for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

- As we renew our relationships with peers and teachers, we notice all the fresh faces in our community – new students and new staff members. Let us welcome them with open arms. Let us make them feel at home. Let us allow them to experience the special warmth of our community and the mystery of God’s grace at work in our lives. For a spirit of hospitality and hope as we start this school year together. We pray to You, Lord.
  **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

- In thanksgiving for the summer just passed, and everything that was good about it. We pray to You, Lord.
  **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

- For the wisdom and courage to welcome and include those who are new or different to our work places and social gatherings. We ask you Lord to hear our prayers.

- For those who are starting a new life in Canada, and especially for refugee families. We ask you Lord to hear our prayers.

**Affirmations:**

- I love God, myself and my family.

- I care about and respect my ‘family’ at school, at Church, in the community, and the world.

- I care about and respect God's creation and everything in it.
REFERENCES

- Salt and Light http://saltandlighttv.org/
- ICE- Institute for Catholic Education www.iceont.ca
- CCC- Catholic Curriculum Corporation www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org
- CARFLEO www.carfleo.org
- TCDSB- Nurturing Our Catholic Community website www.tcdsb.org
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board www.dpcdsb.org
- Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board www.hwcdsb.ca
- Niagara Catholic District School Board www.niagaracatholic.ca
- York Catholic District School Board www.ycdsb.ca
- Spirituality and Practice Website http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/
- Actions
  - Speak Up Student Engagement –Ontario Ministry of Education
    http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/speakup/index.html
- Passionist Community Prayer Resources www.cptryon.org/prayer/index.html

- Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
  http://catholicactionnetwork.org/dec05/documents/CSTprinciples.pdf
- http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/schoolcouncil/Shared%20Documents/renewingthevision.pdf
- http://www.educationforjustice.org/