

## SEPTEMBER: VIRTUE OF HOSPITALITY

### Week 1 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Hospitality

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

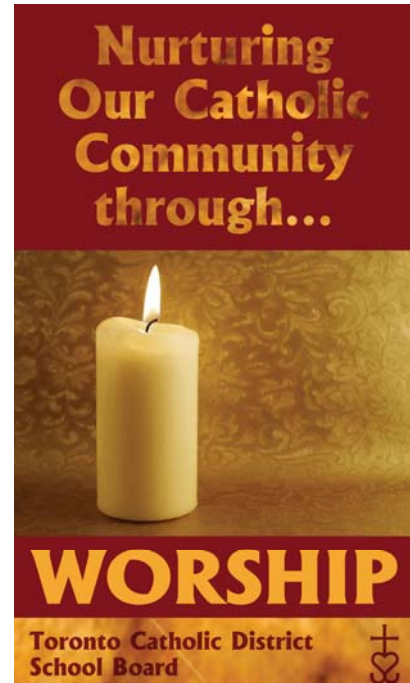
The Virtue of the Month for September is Hospitality. As young people living in our culture, September is one of those moments when we are invited to begin again. Re-energized after the freedom and different pace of the summer months we set out on the adventure of a new school year together. As we renew 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..)

Let us pray an Our Father together.

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



## **Week 2 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Hospitality**

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

There's a special moment in Matthew's Gospel when Jesus goes to a big party at the house of Matthew the tax collector. People from all walks of life were there, but some people were scandalized that Jesus would associate himself with those who were considered to be outcasts in that society. Yet both Jesus and Matthew had the sense that it is important to include everybody in our gatherings, even when they are not part of our own group. They knew that at a fundamental level we are all equal, and interconnected, and we all need to feel included.

For the wisdom and courage to welcome and include those who are new or different to our work places and social gatherings. We pray to You, Lord.

(Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For those who are starting a new life in Canada, and especially for refugee families. 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

### **Week 3 – Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Hospitality**

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

Chapter 18 of the book of Genesis tells the story of Abraham, the patriarch, welcoming three visitors who happened to show up at his dwelling place one day. He had bread specially baked for them, and the best of meat was prepared, and cream and milk. Abraham had the sense that these visitors came from God and he felt he should roll out the red carpet for them as it were. Sometimes we can dismiss those who intrude into our lives and want them out of there, but the Scriptures remind us to remain alert and open to those who visit us.

For a habit of welcome and hospitality in our daily dealings with friends, neighbours and strangers. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For kindness of heart to street people and to the marginalized. 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

## **Week 4 Morning Prayer: Virtue of the Month - Hospitality**

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

We can already look back on three weeks of school and reflect on all the special experiences of that time. As we establish routines and a rhythm to our learning we are always challenged by our gospel values to be alive to what is new and to be ready to be surprised by joy in unexpected places. We can hear the “Good morning” from those who say it to us with new attentiveness. We can offer our own gestures and words of welcome to those who would least expect it from us. We can allow the light of kindness in our heart break down the walls of harshness that sometimes build inside ourselves. We can help to make somebody’s day a good day.

That Your Holy Spirit will inspire us to be alert and kind to all those who are part of our circle. We pray to You, Lord. (Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For a sense of perseverance and hope in the midst of difficulties and challenges. 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