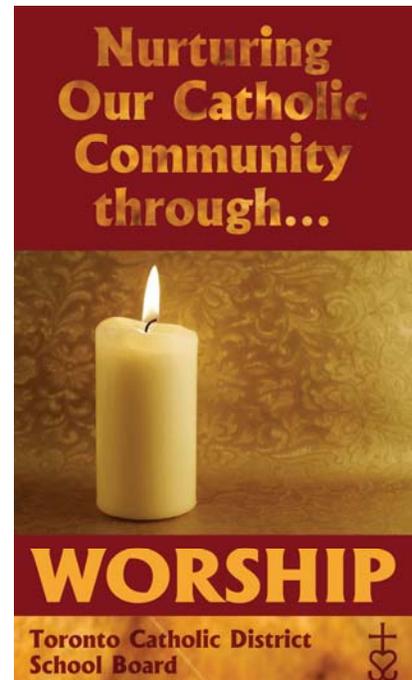


## Overview of the Virtue of Hospitality

Hospitality is shown when we welcome guests — including strangers and enemies — into our lives with kindness. When we are hospitable, we are open toward others, we focus on the positive, and we believe the universe is basically a friendly place. Sometimes hospitality requires that we cross boundaries and reduce some of the barriers established in our society to keep "the other" out. Sometimes it means entertaining ideas that might be foreign to us. When we are hospitable, we choose to accept pluralism as a natural condition in the world and celebrate the diversity of Creation. Practicing hospitality is one way to neutralize our natural tendency to rush to judgment. It is a way to peace in our conflicted world.



### Exploring Your Inner Self: Why the Virtue of Hospitality Might Be For You:

#### If you are feeling....

- hostile or angry
- critical of others' lifestyles
- judgmental of other cultures, faiths, of the appearance of others
- distrustful of the world and/ or become fearful and paranoid when others approach

#### Then you may wish to explore the virtue of hospitality....

- Hospitality enhances tolerance
- Hospitality can reduce a tendency to be critical of and unaccommodating to others
- Hospitality encourages trust
- Hospitality opens our hearts and minds to welcome new ideas and people

## **Modelling the Virtue of Hospitality: 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 Hospitality**

- ✓ students who welcome others
- ✓ students who focus on the positive, and believe the universe is basically a friendly place
- ✓ students who accept and celebrate diversity and pluralism
- ✓ students who approach and accept others who might be “different” from status quo, with an open heart