

Virtues: Faith and Character Development

JUSTICE

How to Show Justice

Quote of the month:

“If you want peace, work for justice” - Henry Louis Mencken

Or for a somewhat lighter look at justice

“Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian”- Dennis Wholey

1. The first step to achieving justice is to do what is right and stand up for what we know God wants.

- It is often not easy to do the right thing
- Remember that when you act justly, you are doing what God wants

2. Let your actions be guided by the idea that even in the face of injustice (death on the cross) Jesus always acted with dignity.

- Often times we complain how unfair life is to us
- Accepting God’s will is one of the most important (and toughest) things to do

3. Everyone wants to be treated fairly; we need to remember to treat others fairly.

- The Golden rule applies to justice just like all the other virtues
- Keep in mind how it feels when you’re treated unfairly

4. Jesus was always an instrument for justice in his work with people.

- Examine the various ways that Jesus was an instrument for justice
- God is forgiving and just to all – how can we work towards being the same with our friends and family

Further suggestions for Faith and Character Development Education

- Short student skits are an excellent way to model how the virtue month should be shown in your school (examples below)
- Get three or four Gr. 7 and 8 students (this is being written from the Elementary perspective but you can definitely adapt it to High School as the four justice statements apply to any age) and come up with basic skits for each scenario. Skits should be 1 to 2 minutes at the most and at the end of the skit the message is discussed within the assembly

Skit 1 – Standing up for what is right

New kid is being made fun of on the bus and someone throws something at him/her. It's tough to stand up for this kid but you know it's the right thing to do.

Skit 2 – Dignity in the face of injustice

Student is blamed for something he/she didn't do. Show the right way and the wrong way to react.

Skit 3 – Treating others fairly

Lining up to go the gym. First 10 students will get to use the new basketballs. You let a friend go in front of you in the line. How would others feel?

Skit 4 – Getting away with stuff

Teacher gives a "think paper" to those students who were talking during Communion at the last school Mass. You were one of them but you get away with it.