January

Virtue: Courage

“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Catholic Graduate Expectation: A Responsible Citizen

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity
Overview of the Virtue of Courage

Courage also known as bravery, fortitude, will, and intrepidity, is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk/danger, uncertainty, or intimidation.

"Physical courage" is courage in the face of physical pain, hardship, death, or threat of death.

"Moral courage" is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement.

The virtue of courage helps us to take the initiative to make changes in our lives and/ or to accept changes brought before us.

Catholic Graduate Expectation -- I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES

A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN WHO:

- Acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions.
- Accepts accountability for one's own actions.
- Seeks and grants forgiveness.
- Promotes the sacredness of life.
- Witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society.
- Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures.
- Respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society.
- Exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.
- Respects the environment and uses resources wisely.
- Contributes to the common good.

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Solidarity:

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers’ and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.
Esther "Etty" Hillesum (15 January 1914 – 30 November 1943) was a Jewish woman whose letters and diaries, kept between 1941 and 1943, describe life in Amsterdam during the German occupation. They were published posthumously in 1981.

In her diaries, Etty evokes her spiritual evolution through a deep look inward.

In the words of Benedict XVI, in his first general audience on Wednesday after his resignation announcement:

“...I am also thinking of Etty Hillesum, a young Dutch girl of Jewish origin who died in Auschwitz. At first far from God, she discovered him looking deep within her and she wrote: “There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there, too. But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath. Then he must be dug out again” (Diaries, 97). In her disrupted, restless life she found God in the very midst of the great tragedy of the 20th century: the Shoah. This frail and dissatisfied young woman, transfigured by faith, became a woman full of love and inner peace who was able to declare: "I live in constant intimacy with God"...”

—Benedict XVI, 13 February 2013 - General Audience (Ash Wednesday), 13 February
Reflection Inspired by the Faith of Etty Hillesum

"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths."

Etty Hillesum

- “I do believe it is possible to create, even without ever writing a word or painting a picture, by simply molding one’s inner life. And that too is a deed.” Etty Hillesum

- “Become simple and live simply, not only within yourself but also in your everyday dealings. Don’t make ripples all around you, don’t try to be interesting, keep your distance, be honest…” Etty Hillesum

Sweet-Smelling God
I am the secret Fire in everything,
And everything smells like
Me.
The living breathe in my sweet perfume
And they breathe out praise of Me.
They never die
Because I am their Life.
I flame out
Intense Godly life
Over the shining fields of corn.
I glow in the shimmer of the fire’s embers.
I burn in the sun and the moon and the stars.
My secret life breathes in the wind
And holds all things together soulfully.
This is God’s voice.
-Mary Malone