

*Virtues  
in Practice*

*Faith ~ Hope ~ Charity*

*Virtues in Practice*  
Monthly Newsletter

November 2018



“The word **courtesy** refers to the medieval royal court. The court was a group of people made up of knights, ladies, and gentlemen. Back then, those terms were official titles indicating ownership of wealth and lands. It was understood that the rich were well educated and knew enough manners to be at ease with royalty.

So...courtesy is outdated, right? **Wrong.** *Courtesy flows* from charity. The medieval royal court was a Christian society; they studied Christ’s commands to love God above all and one’s neighbor as oneself. The society we live in today tries more and more to remove Christianity from common life, so many people don’t see a problem with being rude or neglecting to protect and care for the most vulnerable members of society.

When we practice **courtesy**, we honor and defer to others out of respect for the dignity of every person as a child of God. We honor God’s laws and boundaries that protect moral behavior between men and women. Good manners without kindness of heart is not courtesy. Courtesy means being thoughtful of others, because Jesus told us that whatever we do to them, we do to Him.” (*Virtues in Practice*, 2013)

## November’s Virtue - *Courtesy*

*Courtesy* and Sacred Scripture

***Speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people***

Titus 3:2

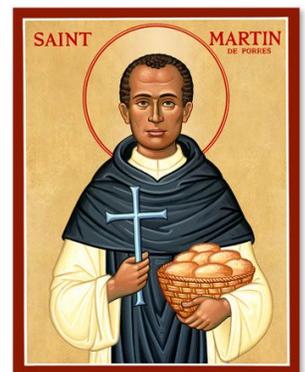
Pre-K-2nd Grade Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God’s living Word!

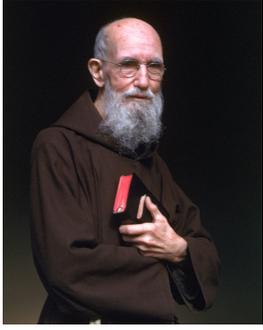
What is *Courtesy*? Courtesy is being thoughtful of others.

Saint: *Saint Martin de Porres* (Feast Day: November 3)

Question to ponder: Why do you suppose St. Martin chose to help the sick and suffering?



## 3rd Grade - 5th Grade



Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Courtesy*? Courtesy is being thoughtful of others.

Saint: *Blessed Solanus Casey (Feast Day: July 30)*

Questions to ponder: How do you know when someone is really listening to you? How does the virtue of charity help us practice courtesy?

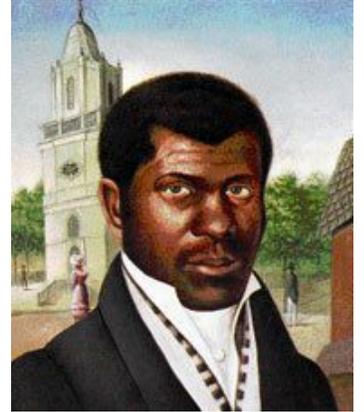
## 6th Grade- 8th Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Courtesy*? Courtesy is being thoughtful of others.

Saint: *Venerable Pierre Toussaint (Feast Day: June 30)*

Questions to ponder: Do you practice courtesy in the classroom, cafeteria, hallways, and playground? What courtesies should be used when communicating online or when texting?



## Home Project Suggestions

For details on these and other suggestions, see the Virtues in Practice Parent Guide for the Year of Charity and the month of November. ([ASCS: Virtues in Practice](#))

All: Hang up a copy of the *Act of Charity* on the refrigerator. Pray the *Act of Charity* together as a family. (See below for a large-print copy.)

Pre K-2nd Grade: Practice making eye contact with people who talk to you, and listening to what they say. Practice how to **politely** interrupt a conversation.

3rd-5th Grade: Choose three tablemanners to practice this month. Practice frequently offering to help parents, grandparents, siblings, classmates and teachers (remember to say "thank you" when they do something for you).

6th-8th Grade: Share your views on courtesy. Is it old-fashioned? What makes some people so courteous? Do you notice a difference between how you speak to people online, texting, etc. and how you speak to them in person? Are you respectful of each person's dignity, in person or otherwise? Which kind of conversations are better held in person?

Interview an elderly friend or relative. Ask him/her what common courtesies they think have been forgotten in today's society. Choose a few to practice this month.

**Courtesy is being thoughtful of others.**

## Virtuous Classroom Happenings!

When it comes to virtues, our eighth graders have been hard at work! These students have participated in service projects supporting the following organizations:

- Mary's Mantle
- AAA Pregnancy Center
- PB&J Ministry
- ConnectUs
- Walton Wood Independent Senior Living

I am so incredibly proud of their willingness to serve those in need, and with such joy. The Virtues Program has been such a positive experience in the classroom. When I introduced the "home project" portion of the program, I was not surprised with their positive reaction at all. Many of them immediately went into brainstorming mode and asked me to approve various ideas of things they could do at home and school. While teachers are happy to give suggestions, I encourage my students to choose something that is truly going to be meaningful.

This month I would like to share what one group of my students chose to do. They have spent MANY hours making friendship bracelets for anyone in the school that wants one. Their hope is that friendship will spread throughout the school. What a witness for the younger students to see our eighth graders live out this virtue!

I am so excited to see what the rest of the year will bring!

Mrs. Terese Gibb  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion Teacher

8th grade students Hannah Glowzinski, April Horn, Amanda Chizuk, Isabelle Barone, and Ella Horn (clockwise from top) working on their October ViP project: Friendship Bracelets!



### December's *Virtue in Practice*: Purity

2018-2019 Virtues Committee: Carie Bellamy, Katrina Finkelstein, Mary Ann Jenkins, Michelle MacLellan, Carol Pisarski, Jessica Railling, Amy Roose, Andrew Willing



For more information or for suggestions on monthly classroom activities/home projects please see: [Virtues in Practice](#) program website or contact a member of the 2018-2019 Virtues Committee. Also, for .pdf versions of ALL *Virtues in Practice* materials please see the [Catholic Identity](#) tab at [All Saints'](#) website.

### *What is a **virtue**?*

A good habit is called a virtue. A bad habit is called a vice. Habits grow by practice. God always gives us the grace to choose and do what is good. If we think about what is right and open our hearts to God, we will make good choices and grow in virtue. Virtues make us free, happy, and holy. (from the Grades 1-2 student book)

Please continue praying the *Act of Charity* with your families. We are all working together to show children that God is first and foremost in our lives. The graces from this prayer are needed to open hearts, to guide leaders, and to beg the healing that only Our Lord can provide. Have a wonderful month!

### *Act of Charity*

*O my God, I love you above all things,  
with my whole heart and soul,  
because You are all good  
and worthy of all love.  
I love my neighbor as myself  
for the love of You.  
I forgive all who have injured me,  
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.  
Amen.*