



The goal of catechetical formation

- *"Catechesis aims at putting 'people . . . in communion . . . with Jesus Christ; only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.'"* CCC 426
- 1h/wk instruction in class will never be able to reach this goal.
- parents are their children's primary catechist
- Education requires a **constant living contact** of parents to children (like heavenly Father to Jesus)

I don't know how

- I don't know how. I am not trained.
- It does not take someone with a degree in theology to give catechetical formation
- Parents have the God-given opportunity and position to teach kids in all things
- I don't have time. Well, you need to make time out of love for your children

Parent small groups

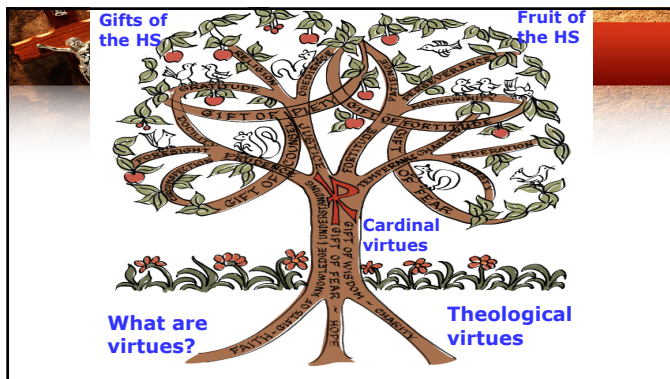
- Team up with teachers and other parents to educate your children (It takes a village to educate a child)
- Make friends with other parents
- Share your concerns and experiences

What do we do?

- We will focus on Virtues
- Why virtues?
 - **They help children grow to be like Christ the model of virtuous life.**
 - **The goal of virtuous life is to be like God.**

What are the Virtues?

- A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good; CCC 1803
- Virtues are good that we do by deliberate choices. E.g., Liturgy of the Word is something we do on Sundays. It helps us to grow in faith and maybe other virtues as well.
- Why do we do good? Because it gives us happiness - the goal of life;
- the final happiness is heaven - seeing God face to face



Virtues Plan

- First year: 3 theological virtues (Faith, hope and love) and 4 cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance)
- Second year: 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Third year: 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Focus on one virtue in a month

Virtues

- 2nd Sunday – Brief instructions and small group meeting with parents
- Daily activities at home: prayers, story of the saints, observation and positive reinforcement of virtuous behaviors, self-reflection using journals and short reflection for negative behaviors
- Weekly activities at home (3rd, 4th and 1st Sun): Liturgy of the Word with connection to virtues

e.g., Self-reflection (1st-2nd Grade)

What I did: _____ What will I do next time?

How I was feeling?

How did I make others feel? _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

e.g., Self-reflection (6th-8th Grade)

The poor choice I made was:

I made this choice because:

How did I make others feel:

A better choice would be to:

The virtue(s) I should practice is/are:

The virtue would "look like" and "sound like":

Rewards to encourage positive choices

This month we focus on the virtue of self-control which is a daughter virtue of temperance. Self-control is joyfully mastery over one's passions and desires. I find Andrew showed this virtue today when he practice piano for 30 min instead of playing video game.



Conclusion

- Establish villages (small groups) to educate God's children
- Focus on Virtues for the next 3 years
- We can count on the help of the Holy Spirit
- It's OK if we make a mess in the beginning; it will be a learning process
- Need everyone's active participation



Small Group Time

- CCE Teachers will go to breakout rooms with parents of each grade
- YM parent will stay
- What to do in the small group
 - Get to know one another
 - Questions and answers
 - Dismiss after closing prayer in the breakout room

This month, please pray for parent small group initiative that this new formation will be fruitful with our active participation



Forming in Virtues-2 Theological Virtue of Faith

Deacon Benny



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.



Recap: Virtues- Why, What and How?

- **Why**
 - Goal of catechesis is to put people in communion with Jesus Christ
 - That requires a **constant living contact**
- **What**
 - A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good; CCC 1803
- **How** (for the next 3 years)
 - Theological Virtues – Faith, Hope and Love
 - Cardinal Virtues – Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance
 - Daughter virtues of all above, spiritual gifts and fruit



Theological Virtue - Faith

- Faith is a theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith man freely commits his entire self to God. (CCC 1814)
- Theological – related to God
- Faith is a gift from God and leads us back to God. It is a supernatural virtue.



Theological Virtue - Faith

- **Faith**

– **Faith** is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).

God took Abraham outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, **if you can**. Just so, he added, will your descendants be. Abraham put his faith in the LORD, who attributed it to him as an act of righteousness. (Genesis 15:5-6)



Theological Virtue - Faith

- **Faith**

- Thus **faith** comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through **the word of Christ**. (Romans 10:17)
- Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of **faith** (Hebrews 12:2)
- Without **faith** it is impossible to please God (Romans 11:6)



Theological Virtue - Faith

Word of God is central to faith

- **personal bible reading**
- **bible prayers (lectio divina)**
- **join a bible sharing group**
- **bed time bible stories**
- **Liturgy of the Word**

God reveals himself to us through creation, direct inspiration, but most often He uses the eternal Word of God to tell us about him.



Theological Virtue - Faith

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, **he spoke to us through a son**, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the radiance of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. (Hebrews 1:1-3)



Theological Virtue - Faith

Does God only give faith to some people and not others?

Faith is given but it must be accepted. Many people refuse to receive God's gift of faith. God gives us freedom to accept or reject Him.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are our models in accepting God's gift of faith. We must accept the gift of faith and live it out.



Theological Virtue – Symbols of Faith

- Eye (lamp, candle, light, cross)

“The **lamp** of the body is the **eye**. If your **eye** is sound, your whole body will be filled with **light**; but if your **eye** is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the **light** in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be. (Matthew 6:22-23)



Theological Virtue – Faith practice at home

- Pray together as a family (before meal, before bed time, in the beginning of the day, on weekend)
- Read scripture passage about faith
- Avoid situations that may be harmful to faith
- Hold up positive role models
- Read about the saints
- Discuss the TV or movie that you watch where virtue of faith is practiced/manifested



Theological Virtue – Guard your Faith

Guard against two capital sins that hurt our faith:

- **Lust**: the pleasures of the senses when overindulged have the ability to cloud or blind our minds to the truth of faith.
- **Gluttony**: the pleasure of food and drink have a dulling effect when overindulged



Virtue - Resources

- Lumen Ecclesiae Press (OP Sisters)
- <https://golepress.com/product/starter-kit/>
- An Educator's Guide to living a virtuous life | 2nd Edition
- Virtue Cards
- Virtue Charts
- Saint Cards
- Free videos
- Parish website CCE/Virtue Resources



Small Group Time

- CCE Teachers will go to breakout rooms with parents of each grade
- YM parent will stay
- What to do in the small group
 - Questions and answers
 - Sharing of ideas or faith experience
 - Dismiss after closing prayer in the breakout room (intentions are welcome)

Please go to our parish website to download resources to use at home