

Theological Virtue

Faith



Descriptor

A new way of seeing, a shared way of believing.

The language of our story speaks of **faith**. The theological virtue of faith is God's gift to us at Baptism. Christian faith transforms our minds with God's self-understanding. Faith gives us a new way...

- of seeing: seeing God, ourselves and everything around us,

- of believing: what Christ has taught us in the Gospels and handed on to us through His Church.

The faith we share through Baptism into Christ's body (the Church), leads us to believe, pray and to worship. It is witnessed in love of God and in love of neighbour, made in God's image. Faith is visible in our Catholic schools whenever there is trust in God, belief, prayer, worship and the witness of love.

Scripture Quotes

The Cure of the Paralytic

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 2: 5

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ...And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and the slave does

it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Luke 7: 1-10

Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed

For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 7: 20b-21

Praying With Faith

Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.

Matthew 21: 22

Upbraided for Lack of Faith; Commissioned to Preach the Good News

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved."

Mark 16: 14-16

Mutual Encouragement in Faith

For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - or other so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1: 11-12

Results of Justification by Faith

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5: 1-5

Unity in the Body of Christ

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4: 4-6

The Surpassing Value of Faith in Christ

I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3: 8-11

The Meaning of Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

Hebrews 11: 1-2

The Example of Jesus

... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

Hebrews 12: 1b-2

Faith Without Works is Dead

What good is it my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith, but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

James 2: 14-18

Connection to Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

The Theological Virtue of "Faith" relates to the following Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

1. A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community who

CGE1a -illustrates a basic understanding of the **saving story** of our Christian faith;

CGE1b -participates in the **sacramental life** of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story;

CGE1c -actively reflects on **God's Word** as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures;

CGE1d -develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic **social teaching** and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good;

CGE1e -speaks the **language of life...** "recognizing that life is an unearned gift and that a person entrusted with life does not own it but that one is called to protect and cherish it." (Witnesses to Faith)

CGE1f -seeks intimacy with God and celebrates **communion** with God, others and creation through prayer and worship;

CGE1g -understands that one's purpose or **call in life** comes from God and strives to discern and live out this call throughout life's journey;

CGE1h -respects the **faith traditions**, world religions and the life-journeys **of all people of good will**;

CGE1i -integrates faith with life;

CGE1j -recognizes that "sin, human weakness, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey" and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness is at the heart of **redemption**. (Witnesses to Faith)

2. An Effective Communicator who

CGE2a -listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values;

CGE2b -reads, understands and uses written materials effectively;

CGE2c -presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others;

CGE2d -writes and speaks fluently one or both of Canada's official languages;

CGE2e -uses and integrates the Catholic faith tradition, in the critical analysis of the arts, media, technology and information systems to enhance the quality of life.

3. A Reflective and Creative Thinker who

CGE3a -recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges;

CGE3b -creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good;

CGE3c -thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems;

CGE3d -makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience;

CGE3e -adopts a holistic approach to life by integrating learning from various subject areas and experience;

CGE3f -examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society.

4. A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner who

EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

- CGE4a** -demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others;
- CGE4b** -demonstrates flexibility and adaptability;
- CGE4c** -takes initiative and demonstrates Christian leadership;
- CGE4d** -responds to, manages and constructively influences change in a discerning manner;
- CGE4e** -sets appropriate goals and priorities in school, work and personal life;
- CGE4f** -applies effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, time and resource management skills;
- CGE4g** -examines and reflects on one's personal values, abilities and aspirations influencing life's choices and opportunities;
- CGE4h** -participates in leisure and fitness activities for a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

5. A Collaborative Contributor who

- CGE5a** -works effectively as an interdependent team member;
- CGE5b** -thinks critically about the meaning and purpose of work;
- CGE5c** -develops one's God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society;
- CGE5d** -finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good;
- CGE5e** -respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others;
- CGE5f** -exercises Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals;
- CGE5g** -achieves excellence, originality, and integrity in one's own work and supports these qualities in the work of others;
- CGE5h** -applies skills for employability, self-employment and entrepreneurship relative to Christian vocation.

6. A Caring Family Member who

- CGE6a** -relates to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner;
- CGE6b** -recognizes human intimacy and sexuality as God given gifts, to be used as the creator intended;
- CGE6c** -values and honours the important role of the family in society;
- CGE6d** -values and nurtures opportunities for family prayer;
- CGE6e** -ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service.

7. A Responsible Citizen who

- CGE7a** -acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions;
- CGE7b** -accepts accountability for one's own actions;
- CGE7c** -seeks and grants forgiveness;
- CGE7d** -promotes the sacredness of life;
- CGE7e** -witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society;
- CGE7f** -respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures;
- CGE7g** -respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society;
- CGE7h** -exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship;
- CGE7i** -respects the environment and uses resources wisely;
- CGE7j** -contributes to the common good.

Related Concepts

- BODY OF CHRIST
- COMMUNION
- COMMUNITY
- CONTEMPLATION
- CONVERSION
- CREATION
- DIVINE SONSHIP/DAUGHTERHOOD
- HOPE
- INCARNATION
- JUSTIFICATION
- LOVE
- PEACE
- PRAYER
- PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR
- REDEMPTION
- RELATIONSHIP
- REVELATION
- SACRAMENT
- SACRED SCRIPTURE
- SALVATION
- SERVICE
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- SPIRITUALITY
- STEWARDSHIP
- TRADITION
- TRINITY
- TRUST
- TRUTH
- ULTIMATE MEANING
- UNITY
- VOCATION
- WITNESS
- WORSHIP

Links to Online Resources

The Vatican

<http://www.vatican.va/>

The official web site of the Vatican contains an impressive collection of materials with a useful internal search engine.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.cccb.ca/Home.htm?NL=1>

The official web site of the CCCB contains extensive documentation, including recent media releases and publications, with a wide variety of useful links to other Church and Catholic organizations' web sites.

Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.occb.on.ca/>

The official web site of the OCCB contains extensive resources from the Catholic Bishops of Ontario as well as useful links to other Church and Catholic organizations' web sites. The Conference's jurisdiction over Ontario Catholic schools makes this site particularly relevant.

AmericanCatholic.org

<http://www.americancatholic.org>

The website for St. Anthony Messenger Press. An extremely useful site containing articles and reader friendly summaries of Church teaching on a wide variety of topics; well-stocked with online faith-development resources. Also contains a helpful search engine for finding articles and information on current and historical faith-related topics.

Catholic Culture Homepage

<http://www.catholicculture.org/index.cfm>

Hosts a wide variety of article on current events, issues and statements within the Catholic Church and by Catholic writers.

Catholic Canada Website

<http://catholiccanada.com/>

A comprehensive listing of Catholic faith-resources, sponsored by the Hamilton (ON) diocese.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace Home Page

<http://www.devp.org/testA/welcome.htm>

Home of the Canadian Bishops' overseas development organization. Lists current news and updates from Agency's campaigns and overseas activities, with school use social justice education resources,

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links to overseas partner organizations.

Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives Homepage

<http://www.kairoscanada.org>

Contains news, links and resources from Canada's 10 Christian inter-church social justice coalitions. A good source of information on Canadian ecumenical social justice initiatives, with regular announcements and updates on campaigns.

Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute

<http://www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/bioethics/>

A helpful site for articles and information on bioethical issues from a Catholic Church perspective.

Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario (CARFLEO) Links Page

<http://www.ycdsb.edu.on.ca/schools/crec/links.htm> An excellent source of links to information related to documents and resources for related documents and resources for Catholic educators.

Electronic New Testament Educational Resources Page

<http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/>

A wonderful set of resources and links related to New Testament studies assembled by Professor Felix Just SJ, from Loyola Marymount University.

Faith by Peter Kreeft

<http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/apologetics/ap0017.html>

This article, written in a Catholic apologetics style, details how: "Faith, hope, and charity are, quite simply, the three greatest things in the world; the three legs of a single tripod that supports the whole Christian life."

Faith Doing Justice Homepage

<http://www.faithdoingjustice.ca/>

Hosted by Canadian Jesuit Fathers Jack Costello, Bill Ryan, Jim Prophet and Canadian journalist Bernard Daly. Website's purpose is to "to prompt discussion about how Christian faith relates to social actions' the things people do or fail to do in their social relations: economic, ecological, political, cultural, domestic, etc." Contains a wide cross section of Church documents and articles, online discussion forum on Catholic Social Teaching and links to faith-based social justice initiatives and related websites throughout the world.

Internet Padre Home Page

<http://www.internetpadre.com/>

Hosts a huge inventory of news, articles and links to Catholic resources on a wide variety of faith-related issues.

Papal and Episcopal Documents Related to Catholic Social Justice Teaching

<http://www.justpeace.org/docu.htm>

Contains an extensive assortment of links to statements on Catholic social justice by popes, church councils, national bishops' conferences, and individual bishops.

Passionist Community Prayer Resources

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/index.html>

Comprehensive prayer resources from the Passionist community.

Sacred Space Home Page

<http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

The *Sacred Space* online prayer page is hosted by the Irish Jesuits. It provides a variety of resources for prayer, ranging from online retreats, seasonal reflections and daily scripture meditations.

Second Spring Journal of Faith and Culture

<http://www.secondspring.co.uk/>

Presents itself as an online journal of faith and culture. Its articles are mainly by European writers, whose analysis is generally conservative, while often probing and intellectually challenging.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Homepage

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/>

Contains statements from American Bishops, faith-related resources for individual and parish group use, along with links to statements from wider universal Church.