



Catholic Distinctiveness in Action

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## **Catholic Distinctiveness in Action**

### Vision ..... Our HOPE

The purpose of this binder is to support the creation of division-wide common language, connecting Gospel Values with social skills instruction. The information in this binder is aligned with the work of the Catholic Distinctiveness Committee and is organized in the following manner:

- Each Gospel Value will have its own section with corresponding virtues,
- Each Gospel Value will have suggested activities and/or lessons (including a liturgy) to support a safe, positive, caring and respectful school.

The template provided for each Gospel Value is an opportunity for your school's Safe Positive School Committee to create additional activities and lessons for your school and to find links to existing social skills curricula being implemented.

The length of time devoted to each Gospel Value is about five weeks, in the order as outlined by the Catholic Distinctiveness Committee. The Gospel Values are intended to align with the liturgical year. The binder is a work in progress and is meant to be utilized with flexibility in mind.

Additional information included:

- Year at a Glance Safe Positive Schools calendar
- Learning Improvement Template
- Assessments
- Resources

As we aspire to be/being distinctive Catholic School communities, we value and appreciate the effort and dedication for all members of our community promoting Catholic education.

***The vision of Catholic education is solidly grounded in hope and, therefore, is an inestimable source of hope.***

***...”How would this look in a Catholic School?” It leads to a discussion on treating others as Christ would, on seeing the image of God in all people, on living out the Gospel concretely in everyday life, on the place of the beatitudes in our work and personal lives.***

***Catholic Education Ensuring a Future***  
**James T. Mulligan (2005)**

YEAR AT A GLANCE  
GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS/SAFE POSITIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<b>Rooted in Faith</b>			Growing in Knowledge				<i>Reaching Out ...to Transform the World</i>		
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Gospel Values</b>	Love & Respect	Community	Faith	Hope	Courage	Reconciliation	Justice	Service	Love & Respect	Review of the Key Messages
<b>Programming</b>	◀ Empathy Training ▶			◀ Conflict Resolution ▶			◀ Mediation Training ▶			
<b>Projects</b>	Anti-Bullying Policy ◀ Bullying Awareness ▶			◀ Advent Service Projects ▶		Social Justice ◀ Lenten Activities ▶ Anti-Racism			◀ Stewardship ▶	
<b>Sacramentality</b> <b>Liturgies</b> <b>Reconciliation</b> <b>Eucharist</b> <b>Confirmation</b>	Peace Walk & Liturgy (Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup> )		National Anti-Bullying Week (Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> –23 <sup>rd</sup> )						World Catholic Education Day (May 1 <sup>st</sup> )	

## Reaching Out to the World

**Priority Area:** Social Skills

**Objective:** To increase Christian character formation by developing and implementing common language for Social Skills instruction based on key messages and Gospel values of the Catholic Distinctiveness Committee.

Smart Goal	Key Strategies/Action Plan	Responsibility
<p>Students, staff and school communities will identify and articulate the eight key messages and Gospel values of the Catholic Distinctiveness Committee by June 2008.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The development of a Safe Positive Schools Binder to support the work of alignment of Gospel values with Social Skills instruction. (June 2007)</li> <li>▪ Provide faith-based materials and activities that support the Gospel values.</li> <li>▪ Providing resources to support the alignment of Gospel values with Social Skills instruction.</li> <li>▪ Learning services curriculum leaders will improve awareness in support of the permeation of one Gospel value across all curricular K-12.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with the Community Education and Accountability Unit to ensure that First Nations and Métis ways of knowing are reflected.</li> </ul>	<p>Safe Positive Schools Committee</p> <p>Catholic Distinctiveness Committee</p> <p>Learning Services Coordinators</p>
<p>A decision will be made regarding a key resource to teach Social Skills by June 2008.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use the information provided by the K-8 Social Skill Survey (2007) to guide the selection and implementation of social skills programming.</li> </ul>	<p>Safe Positive Schools Committee</p> <p>Coordinator of Student Services</p>

## **Gospel Values Definitions**

**Values are** internalized sets of beliefs or principles of behaviour.

**Virtues are** qualities of moral goodness or excellence, derived from universally accepted principles.

(Excerpted from Taking the High Ground; Virtues and Values in Catholic Schools, New Zealand Catholic Education Office Limited. July 28, 2004)

### **LOVE**

To will good to someone. Also to please someone, either by sharing with that person what one possesses or by doing what someone wants. Basically there are two kinds of love. The love of concupiscence, or self-interested love, means that another is loved for one's own sake as something useful or pleasant to the one who loves. The love of friendship means selfless love of another for that person's own sake, for his or her good, to please him or her; it is the love of benevolence.

### **RESPECT**

Esteem for someone or something, arising out of special regard for that object because of his, her or its excellence. More properly it refers to persons, and it refers to things only because of the persons with whom they are associated. It implies a deference to the one respected and to that extent a sense of inferiority in the one who has or shows respect. (Etym. Latin respectus, a looking at, by or with a regard; relation, proportion; from respicere, to look at, look back upon.)

### **COMMUNITY**

A group of persons who share the same beliefs, live together under authority, and cooperate in pursuing common interests for the benefit of others besides their own members. The degree of common belief, living, and activity determines the intensity of the community and its distinctive identity as a human society. (Etym Latin communitas, community, common possession; association; congregation, parish; generality.)

### **FAITH**

The acceptance of the word of another, trusting that one knows what the other is saying and is honest in telling the truth. The basic motive of all faith is the authority (or right to be believed) of someone who is speaking. This authority is an adequate knowledge of what he or she is talking about, and integrity in not wanting to deceive. It is called divine faith when the one believed is God and human faith when the persons believed are human beings. (Etym. Latin fides, belief; habit of faith; object of faith.)

## **HOPE**

The confident desire of obtaining a future good that is difficult to attain. It is therefore a desire, which implies seeking and pursuing; some future good that is not yet possessed but wanted, unlike fear that shrinks from a future evil. This future good draws out a person's volition. Hope is confident that what is desired will certainly be attained. It is the opposite of despair. Yet it recognizes that the object wanted is not easily obtained and that it requires effort to overcome whatever obstacles stand in the way. (Etym. Latin spes, hope.)

## **COURAGE**

Virtue of bravery in facing difficulties, especially in overcoming the fear of consequences in doing good. As moral courage, it enables a person to pursue a course deemed right, through which one may incur contempt, disapproval, or opprobrium. As physical courage, it is simply bodily or emotional strength to withstand opposition. It differs from fortitude in being more aggressive in undertaking, whereas fortitude is more patient in undergoing what is virtuous but hard.

## **RECONCILIATION**

The act or state of re-establishing friendship between God and a human being, or between two persons. Reconciliation with God is necessary after a person has lost the divine friendship through grievous sin. It requires repentance on the part of the sinner and forgiveness on the part of God. The willingness to be reconciled with another person is a necessary condition for obtaining God's mercy.

## **JUSTICE**

As a virtue, it is the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her right due. It is a habitual inclination of the will and therefore always recognizes each one's rights, under any and all circumstances. The rights in question are whatever belongs to a person as an individual who is distinct from the one who practices justice. The essence of justice, then, as compared with charity, consists in the distinction between a person and his or her neighbor; whereas charity is based on the union existing between the one who loves and the person loved so that the practice of justice regards the neighbor as another self.

## **SERVICE**

In general, performing one's religious duty as a creature toward God, and fulfilling one's moral responsibility of meeting the needs of others. To serve God is the primary obligation of human beings, personally and socially, to be done in acts of worship and prayer; and in acts of virtue as prescribed by the natural and revealed laws of God.

This corresponds to the first three commandments of the Decalogue, and is summarized in the precept to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22.37). To serve others is the secondary obligation of a person, deriving from the preceding duty and depending on it. This corresponds to the last seven commandments of God and is synthesized in the precept “You must love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22.39). On these two commandments of service, Christ says; rest the whole law and the Prophets also. (Etym. Latin servos, a slave, servant, subject to the right of others.)

Definitions found at: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>