



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

CHARITY

Virtue of the Month:
Charity

Saintly Exemplar:
*Blessed
Mother Teresa*



Sacred Scripture:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 *Corinthians* 13:4-7

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“Charity is the *theological* virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*. By loving His own ‘to the end,’ He makes manifest the Father’s love which He receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: ‘As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you; abide in My love.’ And again: ‘This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you’ (CCC 1822, 1823).

Note: Theological means that this gift comes from God and leads us back to God. A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Supernatural means that this virtue is above our nature.

What is the supernatural virtue of charity?

“Christ died out of love for us. The Lord asks us to love as He does, even our *enemies*, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ Himself” (CCC 1825). The gift of charity is infused by God in Baptism. There will not be a need for faith and hope in Heaven but love never ends. (1*Corinthians* 13:8, 13)

- The supernatural virtue of charity makes up for what is lacking in our human ability to love and strengthens us to love as God loves, in reality allowing **Him** to love in and through us.
- God’s gift of charity or love inspires us to a life of self-giving, with Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross as our model.
- “To love is to will the good of another” (CCC 1766). Love is an act of the will, not always a feeling. Love—that is His love in us—inclines our will to act and our emotions will indeed eventually follow.
- In receiving God’s love and our responding to His love, we reach the heights of prayer, that is, our union in relationship with Him.
- Charity binds everything in the Christian life together in perfect harmony and assures the unity of the Church. (*Colossians* 3:15)

Why do we need the supernatural virtue of charity?

- The supernatural gift of charity makes it possible for us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (*Matthew* 22:37).
- Charity allows us to love our friends as well as “enemies”; to pray for those who persecute us...hating the sin but loving the sinner.
- Charity animates goodness in relationships, making us capable of acting as God’s children and of inheriting eternal life.
- The presence and action of the Holy Spirit guide us interiorly through the gifts of faith, hope, and charity, especially in serving those most in need. (See *Matthew* 25:31-46)
- When we need the gift of charity, the most important thing we can do is ask for it: “The Lord hears the cry of the poor” (*Psalms* 34:6).

Suggestions for fostering the growth of this virtue at home

- **Read a Scripture passage about charity.** Choose a word or phrase that stood out for you.
1 *Corinthians* 13:4-7 *John* 13:34-35 1 *John* 3:1-18 *Matthew* 25:31-46
1 *John* 4:9-10, 16 *Luke* 10:25-37 *Romans* 13:8-10 *Colossians* 3:12-14
- **Identify positive role models** who exemplify the virtue of charity through a life of prayer and action. How do they show respect and love for each human person?
- **Discuss television programs.** What TV program do you watch where the virtue of charity is practiced? Discuss how specific programs present obstacles to selfless love and living out charity.
- **Name and read about other saints** that model the virtue of charity. St. Damien of Molokai, St. Rose of Lima, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Martin de Porres, , St. Vincent de Paul. www.newadvent.org.
- **Discuss what it means to be charitable.** How would someone know you practice charity? Refer to the description of charity on page one.
- **Pray for ten minutes with a Scripture passage** using the “Praying with Scripture” prayer worksheet:
Matthew 8:1-4 *Mark* 6:34-44 *Luke* 10:25-37 *John* 19:23-30
- **What are the biggest challenges** that you face when trying to live a life of Christian charity?
- **How do you show love to people that you do not like?** Make a decision to treat them with respect and kindness regardless of how you feel.
- **What does it mean to hate the sin,** but love the sinner? Each person is a child of God and we desire their ultimate heavenly residence. We must reject sinful behavior, offer correction, and avoid the company of those in misbehavior.

Charity

Blessed Mother Teresa

FAST FACTS

Also Known As
Agnes
Saint of the Gutter

Feast Day:
September 5



Prayer Of Mother Teresa

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered,
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.
Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.
Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.

- this version is credited to Mother Teresa -