

The Virtues

Prudence: Prudence is the ability to distinguish what is good and bad in any given situation, and to take appropriate action. For instance, if you are in a big hurry on the freeway, and you know that you are in an area closely monitored by the police for speeding, it would not be prudent to go faster than the speed limit.

Who makes quick use of the moment is a genius of prudence. ~ Johann Kaspar Lavater

Justice: Justice is the virtue that demands that we give everyone exactly what is due them. For instance, if the cashier gives you too much change back at the counter after a purchase, justice says that you must give back the extra money, if you know about it.

An eye for an eye ends up making the whole world blind. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Fortitude: Another word for fortitude is courage. In the Christian sense, fortitude is the virtue that allows us to overcome our fears and continue in our Christian tasks.

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. ~ Nelson Mandela

Temperance: Temperance is the virtue of moderation. There are many things, relationships and activities in the world that bring us pleasure and are good for us. The temperate person sets appropriate boundaries around these good things and knows when to say, "I've had enough."

The virtue of prosperity is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude. ~ Francis Bacon

Faith: If we are true to ourselves, we will know that God is infallible, and He cannot be deceived, nor can he deceive us. Faith manifests itself in how we handle our day-to-day lives, how we treat others, and in our Catholic devotions.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hope: The virtue that allows us to totally trust in Jesus and to desire eternal bliss in heaven with him is hope. Hope is a virtue of the will, and helps us to keep going in the face of adversity, mockery, and dry times.

At the end of the day, we must go forward with hope and not backward by fear. ~ Jesse Jackson

Charity: The two terms "love" and "charity" are frequently used interchangeably, and with good reason, since the virtue of charity is in fact a kind of love. Charity is a mode of participating in God's action, for with Charity we share in God's act of love; we are able to love the way God loves.

True charity is the desire to be useful to others with no thought of recompense. ~ Emanuel Swedenborg

Task #1: Answer the following questions:

1) How do virtues help us in our daily lives?

2) How do the virtues help society as a whole?

Task #2: Choose one of the quotes from the previous page and explain why you agree with the quote. In your response, reference your own experiences.

Task #3: Create a poster that emphasizes the virtue you selected. You may want to use the quote to help get your point across. Your poster should be neat, colored and have images/drawings.