

"Virtues to Live by"

"Our educational work should have a purpose: to elicit a change in our students, to make them grow in wisdom, to help them undergo a transformation, to provide them with knowledge, with new feelings and, at the same time, achievable ideals."

(Pope Francis 2013)

Summer:

SERVICE

SERVICE You put other people's needs before your own. You want to make a difference to their lives. You look for ways to help others and do not wait to be asked. You put your heart and soul into your work. You notice that other people have things to offer and help them to make a real contribution.

OPENING PRAYER:

Circle Me O God

Circle me O God,
Keep protection near, and danger far away.

Circle me O God,
Keep hope within, keep doubt without.

Circle me O God,
Keep light near, and darkness far away.

Circle me O God,
Keep peace within, keep evil out.

Circle me O God,
Keep calm within, keep storms without.

READING:

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. *John 13:12-17*

REFLECTION

"Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. Helping other people is one of the best ways to serve God.

Having an attitude of service means looking for ways to be of help rather than waiting to be asked.

You do things for other people just to be helpful, not because you hope they will pay you or reward you.

When you work with a spirit of service, you give a job your best effort.

Linda Kavelin Popov

We too are blessed when we serve

- Serving allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts.
- Serving allows us to experience miracles.
- Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience.
- Serving helps us to be more like Jesus.
- Serving surrounds us with other Christians who can help us follow Jesus.

- Serving increases our faith.
- Serving allows us to experience God's presence in new ways.
- Serving is good for your soul.

We make all sorts of excuses for not serving:

I don't have time.

I don't know what I would do.

I don't have any special skills to contribute.

They don't need me.

But the reality is the Lord doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. God uses all of us to change the course of history. May God help us to not make excuses today for not serving others.

LIVING OUR VIRTUE

Inspire each one of us that we may help our children to:

- Think of the needs of others and how they could help.
- Be willing to give their time to serve others
- Learn about different ways to serve others
- Reflect on the joy of serving
- Recognise their gifts through serving
- Serve with enthusiasm
- Recognise how living a life of service can make a difference to the world.

May we support our children in recognising opportunities for growth so that they can make the most of the opportunities life presents.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours. **Amen**

VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

I look for ways to help others without being asked

I give my time to serve willingly

I encourage others to use their gifts to serve

By serving others I share God's love