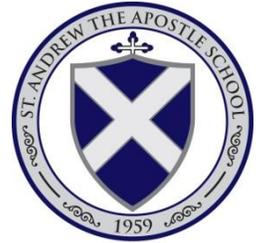


ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Friends of St. Andrew the Apostle School!

As stated last month, the ongoing B.E.S.T Plan communication for the remainder of the school year will focus on the virtues that encompass our parish vales. As a reminder, our Value Statement is:

We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with everyday life; while believing that all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values. These values are deeply rooted in the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school and our community lives out our faith expressing the virtues of prudence, fortitude, charity, generosity, temperance, humility, and brotherly love. All, in communion with a strong sense of hospitality and belonging in everything we do.

This month, as a parish family, and at home as a domestic church, I would like to encourage you to continue to partner with the school and focus on these virtues. As part of our ongoing faith formation, here is just a brief synopsis on virtues.

A virtue is the behavior of showing high moral standards. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God. There are three different types of virtues: Cardinal, Theological and Capital. The Cardinal Virtues are four moral virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance) that are the foundation for the others. There are three Theological Virtues (faith, hope and charity) which are straight out of the Bible, and can only be acquired as a free gift from God. There are seven Capital Virtues (chastity, generosity, temperance, brotherly love, meekness, humility and diligence). These virtues help us overcome the seven deadly sins of lust, greed, gluttony, envy, anger, pride, and sloth. By praying to obtain all seven of the capital virtues, we can put a stop to the devil and his plan to destroy our lives.

March's Virtues:

Temperance: is both a Cardinal and Capital Virtue. It is the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable. The temperate person directs the sensitive appetites toward what is good and maintains a healthy discretion. Temperance is often praised in the Old Testament: In the New Testament it is called "moderation" or "sobriety."

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Humility is a Capital Virtue. It overcomes the sin of pride. Humility is the virtue that recognizes our 100% reliance on God for all that we have, or ever will have. Everything on earth is on loan from God, including our good looks, our money, our house, etc. Those who think that they got all of these things on their own are in for a big surprise upon death. The devil fools some of us into thinking that we got these things due to our hard work, or our talent, or whatever, when in fact, God gave them all to us. Pride is the devil's great sin, and he wants us all to think that we are gods too, like he does. But by being humble, we beat him every time, because humility comes from the heart, and the devil does not have a heart. In Christianity, the bible says that the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. To be humble, a man does not need to belittle his abilities. Our Lord continually urged us to humility; as when He said, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (St. Matthew 23:11).

As we journey together this Lenten Season, this is an excellent opportunity for us to grow deeper in our faith. So I encourage you to continue practicing these virtues as part of your Lenten offering; while continuing to pray and offer your support in doing God's will for the good of our parish. As always, you all remain in my ongoing prayers and I ask that you continue to keep me and those entrusted to running and enhancing our school in your prayers. I truly believe that together, with the Grace of God, and through living out our faith in these virtues, we can make a difference in our community and our parish as a whole.

Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gregor

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