Fostering Equity and Inclusivity Through the Virtues Using Our Language, Our Story

www.ourlanguageourstory.org

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Equity and Inclusivity Through the Virtues
Using Our Language, Our Story

I. The Context
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts
III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues
IV. Our Challenge: Owning our Distinctive Language
I. The Context:

• 2007 Character Development
• 2009 Equity and Inclusivity

A Moral Objective

- Fostering a safe, respectful learning environment to shape emerging citizens and orient their contribution to society.
I. The Context (cont’d):
Need for Catholic language and terminology to guide Character Development:

“...we suggest that the concept of “virtue,” a concept central to Catholic moral doctrine, is key in linking the Character Development Initiative to the Catholic school education project.”

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I. The Context (cont’d):
   Need for **Distinctive Catholic Language**
   to guide our continued commitment...

   ...to equity & inclusivity
   ...character development
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts

- Dignity of All Persons
  - in God’s Word
  - in Church Teaching: Rights, Responsibilities
    - to receive truths of Catholic faith
    - responsibility to correct error
  - Duty to Refrain from Judgement
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

- Discrimination
  - Key to human understanding
  - Constitutionally guaranteed in hiring
  - Just and unjust discrimination
  - Extremes to avoid
    - failure to discriminate
    - unjust discrimination
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

- Bias, Blind Spots, Conversion
  - Biased towards Gospel’s goodness, truth
  - Blind Spots – interfere with intelligent and reasonable decision-making
  - Moral duty to challenge
  - Conversion to Gospel: needed by all

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II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

• Diversity
  - Diversity in Body of Christ: wealth of gifts, personalities
  - Diversity and Character: moral development respects, guides, refines
  - Flourishes through the virtues: all benefit
  - Diversity and Perspective (positive, destructive)
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II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

- Diversity
  - Diversity, perspective & discernment
  - Listening in Faith (with heart, mind of Christ)
  - to uncover unjust discrimination, blind spots
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

• Hospitality, Welcoming the Stranger
  - Human rights of migrants
  - Religious Accommodation
    - God’s universal saving will
    - ray of truth in great religions
    - profound willingness to listen
    - preserving social life & culture
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

• Catholic Social Teaching
  - Human Dignity
  - Common Good
  - Human Rights & Responsibilities
  - Fundamental Option for Poor
    - (special presence of Christ)
  - Solidarity
  - Subsidiarity
II. Commitment in Catholic Language, Concepts (cont’d)

• Catholic Social Teaching (cont’d)
  - Dignity of Work
    - priority of labour over capital
    - just wage
    - participation
    - freedom of association
  - Distribution
  - Stewardship for Creation
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**Faith**

*A new way of seeing,*  
*a shared way of believing*

- *I see my neighbour as an icon of God*  
- *I welcome my neighbour*
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Hope

* Trusting God’s promises, praying, working for justice

- I trust God has overcome what divides and demeans us.
- I pray to God for our needs and work for justice
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Love

Loving God above all things, and others as god loves them

• My love for God is expressed in worship, kindness, welcome, hospitality, sharing, compassion, solidarity
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Prudence

*Seeking, judging, acting*

in confidence and love

*I seek the believing community’s wisdom*

in approaching difficult questions

*I act with confidence and kindness*
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Justice

*Seeking what is good,*
*meeting obligations to God and neighbour*

- I give worship to God
- I show mercy and fairness to all,* especially the poor and suffering*
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Temperance
Enjoying life’s pleasures
in keeping with the Gospel

• I strive to live with moderation:
in honesty, chastity,
• stewardship, and healthy friendships
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**Fortitude**

*Practicing what is good and just with patience despite obstacles*

- *I strive to* build a welcoming community and *defend my neighbour’s dignity,*
  *even when others do not*
IV. Our Challenge: Owning our Distinctive Language

- Policies – in our rich language
- Practices – through the virtues

How can we respond?
How will we respond?
It’s up to us.

Thanks for your attention 😊