

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



*Our Language, Our Story*

*Character Development Through the Virtues  
A Resource for Ontario Catholic Schools*



[www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://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**

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

## **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.**

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

## 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.”**

ACBO Education Commission, *Character Development and The Virtuous Life. A Position Paper.* 2008. P 2.

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

## I. The Context (cont'd):

Need for Distinctive Catholic Language  
to guide our continued commitment...

...to equity & inclusivity  
...character development

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

## 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

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

## 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

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

## **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



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

## **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)**

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

## 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**

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

## 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

# Equity and Inclusivity Through the Virtues

## Using *Our Language, Our Story*

### 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

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

## 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

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

## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### Faith

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

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

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

## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### 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***

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

## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### 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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**III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues**  
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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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## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### 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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## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### 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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## III. Equity & Inclusivity Through the Virtues from [www.ourlanguageourstory.org](http://www.ourlanguageourstory.org)

### 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**

# Equity and Inclusivity Through the Virtues

## Using *Our Language, Our Story*

### 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 😊