

Prudence

Inquiring, judging, acting – in confidence and love

The cardinal virtue of *Prudence* (*good sense*) has been called “the watchful eye of love.” Prudence has three steps: seeking the proper, most loving thing to do; judging what is the best choice; and confidently acting. A prudent person asks, “What is the right, most loving thing to do?” She considers others’ advice, and looks to the Gospel and Church teaching to guide her conscience. She prays and thinks things through, then acts in truth and love. In this way, practicing prudence unites us more closely both with God and neighbour. Prudence is visible in our Catholic schools when we reflect as Jesus’ disciples and act in His love.

All of us were created to find happiness by living in God’s love. This love must be guided – with good advice and the wisdom of our faith. This is where the virtue of prudence helps us. Prudence is about guiding one another as sons and daughters of God, and encouraging each other to live the Gospel of Jesus with confidence.

As parents, we want to make the right choices for our children. When we have important decisions, we seek help from our spouses, elders and friends, and sometimes the parish priest. When we know in our hearts what is the right, most loving thing to do, we can act in confidence and peace. As Catholic educators, we may ask our senior members of staff, Principal and Pastor for advice on important matters. We too want to act in the love, truth and confidence that practicing prudence gives. We want nothing less for our children. And so, we encourage them to stop and think about what Jesus would do, to ask for advice when needed, and to act with love and joy.

Our children are a precious treasure. We want them to know and live by the values that are dearest to us as people of faith. We can encourage them to practice prudence:

- at home, by seeking God’s will through parents’ advice, prayer and practicing kindness;
- at school, by reflecting together with staff and classmates on how to live as followers of Jesus, and acting in His love.
- with friends, asking themselves, “What is the right thing for me to do, as a disciple of Jesus?”

Practicing prudence can help all of us grow as followers of Jesus to be the best persons we can be.

“I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built.” (Luke 6, 46-48)