

Religion Bulletin Boards

2015-2016 --Virtues

Bulletin boards have an important function in every classroom. They should be interactive as they provide a way to introduce new concepts or display student work related to the concept. Every classroom in a Catholic school/PREP program should have at least one bulletin board dedicated to increasing student awareness of faith values. They should be changed/updated on a regular basis throughout the school year.

Teachers and catechists should create boards that are equally engaging and educational. The use of interactive boards in the classroom ensures that students recognize the importance of the posted materials. This year's bulletin Board ideas have as their source, the virtues related to the "Fruits of the Spirit" found in Galatians, 5:22:

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Additional resources related to each month's virtues can be found on the following web sites. This will enable teachers to use their bulletin boards as "teaching tools" as well as provide them with meaningful faith-based classroom decorations. The web sites are:
<http://phillyocf.org/resources/> <http://phillymissions.org/>
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/aboutus/Virtueofthefmonth/Pages/default.aspx>

The virtues covered in this edition of *ABC Notes* are:

September-Love (expressed through Hospitality) With the expected millions gathering in the U.S. for the World Meeting of Families in September, an opportunity is provided to share with students the virtue of charity as reflected through hospitality. As we anticipate the Year of Mercy, it is also a way to look at the virtue as reflected in the Works of Mercy

October- Faithfulness We can ask our students to reflect on how they can be faithful to the mission we have been called to as Catholics. World Mission Sunday is celebrated in October.

November- Generosity Our focus during November on God's gifts to us can create opportunities for generosity and outreach to others.

The virtues covered in future editions will include:

December- Joy (Year of Mercy begins)

January- Peace

February- Kindness

March- Patience/long suffering

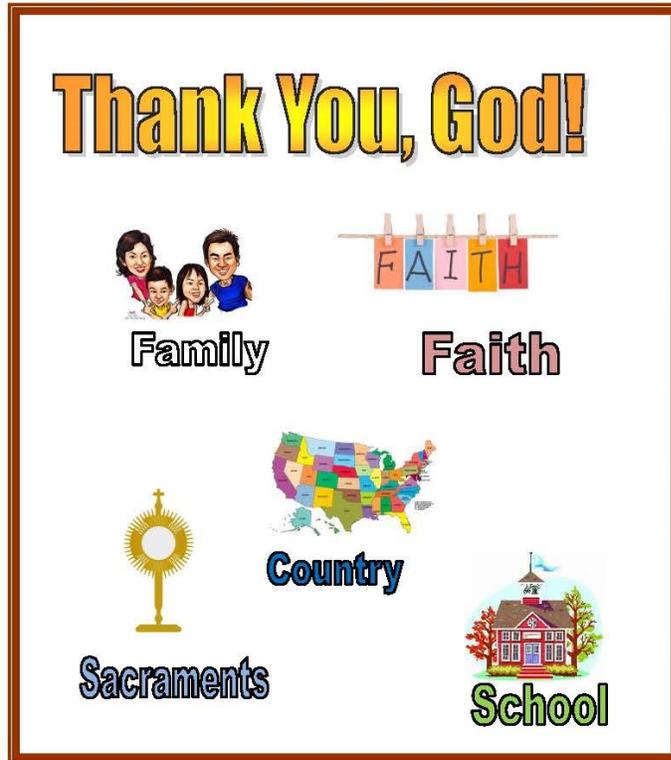
April - Goodness

May- Gentleness

November— Virtue of Gratitude

Gratitude is the virtue that makes us aware of the gifts we receive each day and appreciative of the generosity of the giver. It moves our will to respond to these gifts by developing them, using them well, and putting them at the service of others.

All levels



Gratitude is a concept that can and should be developed at all levels. During this month of Thanksgiving, we are provided with opportunities to identify what we are grateful for as well as to foster the virtue of gratitude in our students.

On one bulletin board students could contribute pictures/words identifying the people/places /things for which they are grateful.

On another, several different ways of building an attitude could be listed. These could be changed and new ones put into practice each week of the month. Following are some starters. The list could be expanded.

1. Always smile and say "thank you" for everything you receive, even if it is for apparently small and unimportant things.
2. Take care of your things, keeping them in order and sharing them with whoever needs them. Do not waste your gifts: food, water, electricity, clothes, etc.
3. Thank others with gestures and actions, such as a note, a little gift, etc
4. Every morning, thank God for a new day and tell him you will try to live it well.
5. After meals, say a quick prayer of thanksgiving.
6. Say a prayer of thanksgiving at night with your family for all of that day's gifts, and ask for help to use those gifts for others.
7. Never complain or lament over what you don't have.
8. Enjoy your family activities, especially the simple things.
9. Make an effort to thank others for the work they do for us, and recognize their efforts even if it doesn't turn out well.
10. Learn to see the needs of others.