



## Virtue-Based Redemptive Discipleship Proposal

This document is an outline for **Four Themes** (Units) to be provided during four sessions for personal enrichment with the DRE Council. Each theme will be delivered as a 15-minute online sharing during the council meetings.

*Future option: At a later date, council members can have access to unit resources to pass on to their constituents through a subscription database. Within these online folders for each theme, subscribers can access lesson activities, stories, videos, and printable materials to be used in a variety of ways within parish/school programs.*

### I. Unit One: Redemptive Discipleship

1. Welcome and how to use materials
2. Contemporary Story: Shopping Experience
3. Scripture Story: Conversion – Story of Zacchaeus
4. Redemption and the call to evangelization – liberated, freed from oppression, debt, a full future
5. St. Maria Goretti and Virtue
6. The Restorative Practices connection

### II. Unit Two: Guiding Principles – the Virtue Base

1. Four Guiding Principles
2. Contemporary Story: Flashing Lights – Rules of the Road to Heaven
3. Definition of Virtue
4. Saints (Sr. Mary Ann) and Virtue
5. The Restorative Practices connection: Restorative Nature of Jesus

### III. Spiritual Foundation of Virtue – Owning our Mission

1. Contemporary Story: Running the Family Business
2. Discerning a Virtue
3. Activities to reinforce virtue
4. Saints and Virtue
5. The Restorative Practices connection: Mercy is restorative

### IV. Transformation: Little acts of Restoration

1. Contemporary Story: Time In vs. Time Out
2. Principles of Restorative Practices
3. Examples of restorations in everyday life/Scripture
4. Saints and RP
5. Ways to deal with issues – transformative quest

It's time for Christianity to rediscover the deeper biblical theme of restorative justice, which focuses on rehabilitation and reconciliation and not punishment. (Ezekiel 16 for a supreme example) We could call Jesus's story line the "myth of redemptive suffering" – not as in "paying a price" but as in offering the self for the other. Or "at-one-ment" instead of atonement.

Restorative justice, of course, comes to its full demonstration in the constant healing ministry of Jewish Prophets. Jesus never punished anybody! Yes, he challenged people, but always for the sake of insight, healing, and restoration of people and situations to their divine origin and source. Once a person recognizes that Jesus's mission (obvious in all 4 Gospels) was to heal people, not punish them, the dominant theories of retributive justice begin to lose their appeal and their authority. *RICHARD ROHR: The Universal Christ*