March's Virtue - *Respect*

"All people are created in the image and likeness of God, with a soul that is able to love and to live forever in heaven. Every single human person has great dignity and deserves our respect. To "re-spect" means to "look again," since many times we only see what people are like on the outside. This month's virtue reminds us to look deeper and recognize that all of us are children of God and are loved by Him.

"When we look at people from this perspective, we can't help but respect them. When we see the very poorest, the weakest, or those who think they have no worth, we know that God treasures them individually, and that we are called to meet one another again in heaven. We cannot degrade, harm, manipulate, or take any human life for granted. Instead, the Gospel calls us to have deep respect for all people, including people of different ages, cultures, ideas, and abilities. (*Virtues in Practice, 2013)*"
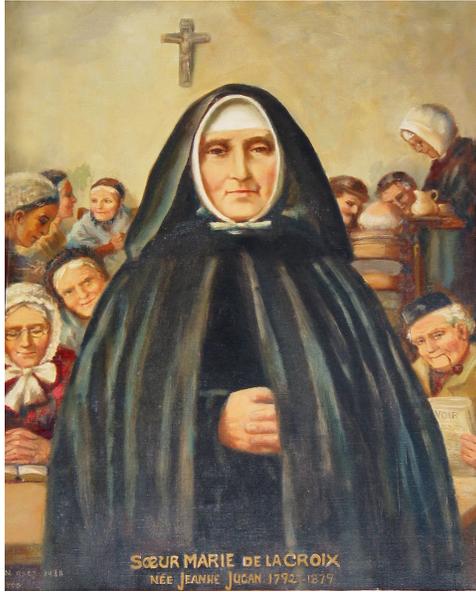
Explore the sections below to support you and your family's virtuous growth in ***respect*** throughout the month of March. May God continue to bless you and yours!

Respect and Sacred Scripture

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

Pre-K-2nd Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Respect? Recognizing the dignity of all people*

Saint: *Saint Jeanne Jugan (Feast Day: August 30)*

Question to ponder:
What did Saint Jeanne Jugan do to show charity and respect for the sick, poor and elderly?

Dear Saint Jeanne Jugan, help us to see all people as children of God. Help us to always respect each person's dignity. Help us to show special respect to elderly, the poor, and the sick. Amen.
Saint Jeanne Jugan, pray for us.

3rd Grade - 5th Grade

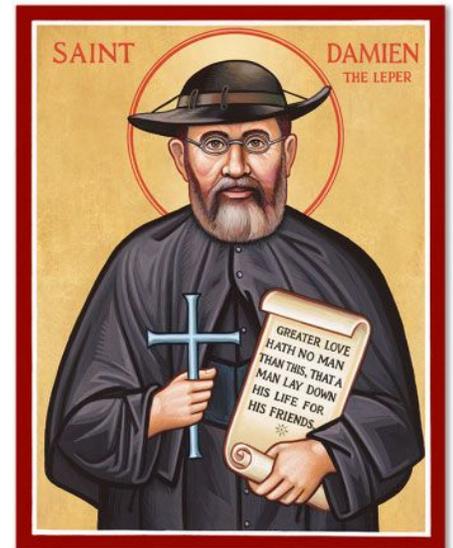Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Respect? Recognizing the dignity of all people*

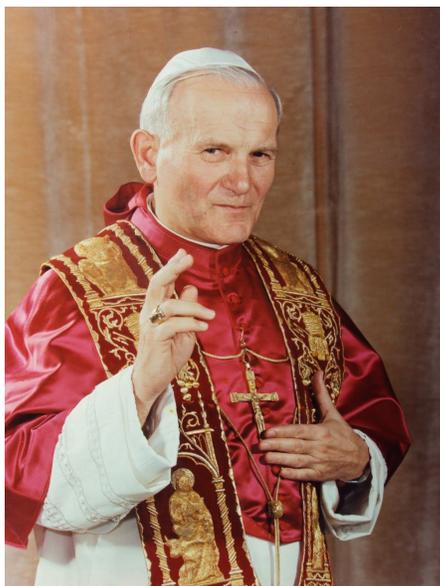Saint: *Saint Damien of Molokai (Feast Day: May 10)*

Question to ponder: What is respect? Who was Saint Damien of Molokai?

Saint Damien, be with us and remind us to respect every person, especially those who are sick. Help us to be brave like you and to reach out to them to show them God's love. Amen.
Saint Damien of Molokai, pray for us.

6th Grade-8th Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Respect? Recognizing the dignity of all people.*

Saint: *Saint John Paul II (Feast Day: October 22)*

Questions to ponder: What are some of the challenges that Saint John Paul II experienced in life that could have challenged his trust in god and in humanity? What made him steadfast in respect?

Saint John Paul II, pray for us, that we may see the eternal worth of each person we interact with throughout the day. Give us your love for all people, and help us to "be not afraid!" Amen.
Saint John Paul II, pray for us.

Monthly Home Project Suggestions –**Respect**

For details on these and **other** suggestions, see the **Virtues in Practice Parent Guide** for the Year of Charity and the month of March. ([ASCS: Virtues in Practice](#))

<u>All</u>: Hang up a copy of the *Act of Charity* on the refrigerator. Pray the *Act of Charity* together as a family. (See following page for a large-print copy.)

<u>Pre K-2nd Grade</u>: Ask your Mom or Dad to teach you about a different culture, and what they like about it. Research a new recipe from another culture and prepare a meal together as a family.

<u>3rd-5th Grade</u>: Sometimes we tease and joke around with our friends to show affection and other times we tease in a way that has a mean edge to it. This month be careful about "teasing." If a person isn't your friend, and you "tease" them, it is probably mean, so stop it this month. Or, if you only tease with your friends, take a private moment to ask one of your friends if the way you tease hurts his or her feelings. If they say yes, ask forgiveness.

<u>6th-8th Grade</u>: The popularity game is often a cruel one that disrespects others. Be honest and make an examination of conscience. Do you respect others less if they don't dress, talk, eat, play etc. in the way you think is "right"? Who decides what way is "right" when it comes to preferences and styles? From your examination, come up with goals to help you grow this month in respect for the dignity of every person.

Respect is recognizing the dignity of all people.

Next month's *Virtue in Practice*: **Forgiveness**

What is **forgiveness**?

Forgiveness is pardoning those who offend you.

What is a **virtue?**

A good habit is called a virtue. A bad habit is called a vice. Habits grow by practice. God always gives us the grace to choose and do what is good. If we think about what is right and open our hearts to God, we will make good choices and grow in virtue. Virtues make us free, happy, and holy. (from the Grades 1-2 student book)

 Please continue praying the *Act of Charity* with your families. We are all working together to show children that God is first and foremost in our lives. The graces from this prayer are needed to open hearts, to guide leaders, and to beg the healing that only Our Lord can provide.

Act of Charity

O my God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because You are all good
and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself
for the love of You.
I forgive all who have injured me,
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Amen.