

*Virtues  
in Practice*

*Faith ~ Hope ~ Charity*

*Virtues in Practice*  
Monthly Newsletter

May 2019



## **May's Virtue - *Responsibility***

“Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 1731).

“Who of us wants to be thought of as unreliable? We all want to be a friend, an employee, a spouse or parent who can be counted on to take care of other people and the jobs entrusted to us. We’ve all been tempted to make excuses when we’re caught neglecting our duty or doing something wrong - and we all know how to lose trust in people when we can tell they’re just making excuses. Practicing acts of responsibility make it easier for us to follow through and to own up to our mistakes.” (*Virtues in Practice*, 2013)

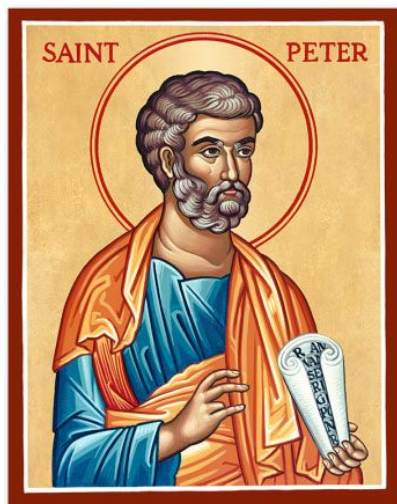
Explore the sections below to support you and your family’s virtuous growth in ***responsibility*** throughout the month of May. May God continue to bless you and yours!

*Responsibility and Sacred Scripture*

***Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance, be slaves of the Lord Christ.***

**Colossians 3:23-24**

## Pre-K-2nd Grade



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

What is *Responsibility*? *Doing your job and admitting your mistakes*

Saint: *Saint Peter (Feast Days: February 22 & June 29)*

Question to ponder: What is responsibility? Who is Saint Peter?

*Saint Peter, you asked Jesus to forgive you for denying Him, and He made you the first pope! Help me to be responsible. Amen.*

*Saint Peter, 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!

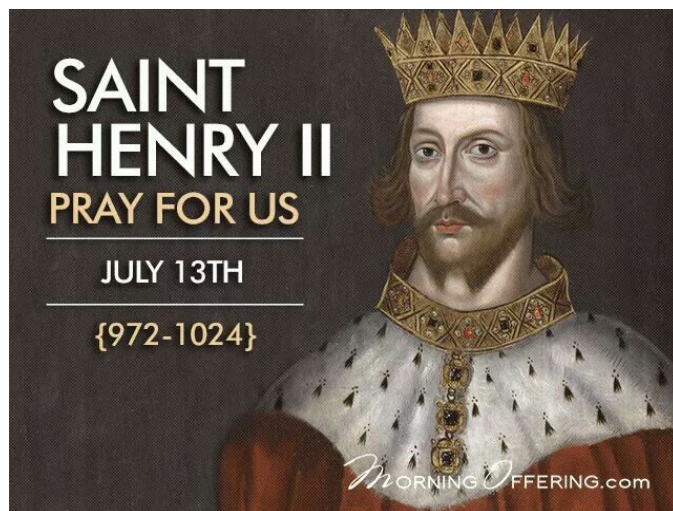
What is *Responsibility*? *Being reliable in your duties and accountable for your actions.*

Saint: *Saint Henry II (Feast Day: July 13)*

Questions to ponder: When we make mistakes, why are we tempted to make excuses?

*Saint Henry, you fulfilled the duties God entrusted to you and faithfully served the people of your kingdom. Above all, you tried always to be faithful to Jesus, the true King of the world. Help me to be responsible for all my duties, and to grow in holiness by serving God and others. Amen.*

*Saint Henry, pray for us.*



## 6th Grade-8th Grade



Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Responsibility*? *Being reliable in your duties and accountable for your actions.*

Saint: *Blessed Bartolo Longo (Feast Day: October 6)*

Questions to ponder: What does Blessed Bartolo Longo's story show us about God's mercy? Why are we often tempted to leave things unfinished or to make excuses rather than apologize.

*Blessed Bartolo Longo, although you had offended God severely, you turned back to Him in confession, and dedicated your life to reparation. Help us to be honest with ourselves, to take responsibility for our actions and sins, and to determine to change them for the glory of God. Intercede for us that we may have strength to repent, as you did. Amen.*

*Blessed Bartolo Longo, pray for us.*

## Monthly Home Project Suggestions - Responsibility

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

All: Hang up a copy of the *Act of Charity* on the refrigerator. Pray the *Act of Charity* together as a family. (See the end of this newsletter for a large-print copy.)

Pre K-2nd Grade: Discuss how excuses and lies multiply and make matters worse. Resolve to simply take **responsibility** for your mistakes by saying things like "I did it" or "I made a bad choice."

3rd-5th Grade: Resolve to be more faithful this month to a chore or homework and discuss your progress. Be sure to make practical changes of timing, location, or rewards to ensure your success.

6th-8th Grade: Agree that each of you will offer to take over one of your parent's responsibilities at home, such as cooking for a night (or a week!), helping a sibling with homework, sorting the mail, doing yard work, et cetera. Discuss the results.

All: Try to use the **OWN UP** acronym this month as you seek to grow in virtue.

### OWN UP:

*admitting you were wrong and asking forgiveness*

OPINION: Ask God His opinion: "Am I in the wrong?" Listen humbly.

WHO: Who did I hurt?

NEXT TIME: What made me do it? What will I do next time?

UNBURDEN: Go to the person. Name the deed you regret. Explain why you did it and what you will do next time. ASK FORGIVENESS.

PAY EXTRA ATTENTION: Watch closely for small ways to show you like that person over the next few days, to mend the relationship.

**Responsibility is being reliable in your duties and accountable for your actions.**

This is our **final ViP Newsletter** of the 2018-2019 school year.

We will return in September with the *Year of Faith* virtues.  
To support your family's virtuous growth over the summer, please see the [Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia](#) site for *Virtues in Practice* resources.



2018-2019 Virtues Committee: Carie Bellamy, Terese Gibb, Mary Ann Jenkins, Michelle MacLellan, Carol Pisarski, Jessica Railling, Amy Roose, Andrew Willing

For more information or for suggestions on monthly classroom activities/home projects please see: [Virtues in Practice](#) program website or contact a member of the 2018-2019 Virtues Committee. Also, for .pdf versions of ALL *Virtues in Practice* materials please see the [Catholic Identity](#) tab at [All Saints'](#) website.

Parents, grandparents, and ASCS staff interested in joining the Virtues in Practice Committee for the 2019-2020 school year should contact [cpisarski@allsaintscs.com](mailto:cpisarski@allsaintscs.com) or [awilling@allsaintscs.com](mailto:awilling@allsaintscs.com). Thank you so much! God is good!

### *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. (*Virtues in Practice*, 2013)

Over the summer, 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.*

