

Instilling charity in children

Family Club

July 2019

Organizations



Charity

- "**charity begins at home**" is most often referenced as being **said** in 1642 by Sir Thomas Browne, an English theologian (Anglican), physician and writer on religion, morality and science
- Charles Dickens, 1844, "*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.*"

Charity

- 1 Timothy 5:3-4

“Honour widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let these first learn to perform their religious duty to their own family and to make recompense to their parents, for this is pleasing to God.”

Act vs Habit

- Charity should be a habit and not an isolated act
 - Charity is not associated with a kind act or a “tick”
 - Not romantic, gush or sentimental action
 - Not impulsive, ephemeral
 - Not an isolated good deed

Act vs a Habit

- Virtue
 - A cultivation of habits to become more prevalent

Act vs a Habit

- Quality of the soul
 - Love relationship and not a contract
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 “So faith, hope and love remain... but the greatest of these is love.”
- Great commandment: Love thy neighbour
 - Humility and acceptance

Humility

- It is all too easy to say: “I’m useless; nothing turns out right for me — for us.” (Furrow 68)
- “...here on earth there is no perfect happiness. That is why, now, immediately, without complaining or feeling a victim, you should offer yourself as an oblation to God, with total and absolute self-surrender.” (Furrow 71)

“

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.

”

Albert Einstein

Charity is in the Will

- Supernatural love: a consequence out of Divine faith
- Recreate the image of God in the unlikeable by a kiss of charity
- To be kind with unkind emotion requires a stronger dynamic than “love of humanity”

“

You can only *like* those who like you, but you can *love* those who dislike you. You can go through life liking those that like you without the love of God, but you cannot love those who hate you without the love of God.”

Venerable Fulton Sheen

Remade for Happiness

Class Activity

- Write about a difficult or trying person or time

Parents Example

- We must model charity within ourselves – we can not impart what we do not possess

Parents Example

- Kids must see a living, breathing faith
- Practice gratitude: “I’m so happy because...”
 - Gratitude using our senses
- And in trying times, be thankful too: “We are so fortunate to have a doctor”

Class Activity

- Make list of things that you have taken or take for granted

Practice Charity

- “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”
—Theodore Roosevelt
- Example:
 - Teach your children about the poor. Explain why we should help to cultivate a charitable virtue
 - Friendships

Friendship

- True friendship also means making a heartfelt effort to understand the convictions of our friends, even though we may never come to share them or accept them. (Furrow, 746)
- You consider yourself a friend because you say nothing bad. That is true, but I see in you no sign of giving good example or service. This kind make the worst friends. (Furrow, 740)

Friendship

- “You are all so cheerful, and one doesn’t expect that,” I heard someone say.” (Furrow 58)

Friendship

- Impart a sensibility of compassion and empathy. Practice reinforcing positive behaviours of gratitude, generous, and caring for others.
- Far-reaching, lifelong benefits.
- Hold high standards for yourself and your family when it comes to being kind, understanding, and respectful.

Strategies

- Have them make a routine of small acts of kindness: in the classroom or playground
- Use age-appropriate phrases to reinforce compassion and empathy. For example “I am so lucky/fortunate/blessed, so I/we share with others,”
- Create reminders of connectedness. Talk about how others might be feeling: characters in a book, friends, people in the news or in other parts of the world.

Dialogue

- Review self reflections

Resources

- Sheen, Fulton (2018). *Remade for Happiness*. Greenwood, CO USA: Ignatius Press and Augustine Institute. Pages. 172-175
- Mullins, Andrew (2005). *Parenting for Character*. Warriewood, NSW: Finch Publishing Pty Ltd. Pages 60, 72, 94
- <https://opusdei.org/en/article/living-for-others-2/>
- <https://opusdei.org/en/dailytext/may-i-never-cease-to-practice-charity/>
- <http://www.escrivaworks.org/book/furrow.htm>
- <https://readingpartners.org/blog/instill-traits-generosity-service-children/>
- <https://www.parents.com/parenting/money/donate-to-charity/9-ways-to-teach-your-child-about-charity/>