



Siena Academy Guiding Virtues

Each virtue is described in 3 ways: 1) For young children, 2) For middle-school students, 3) For high school & adults.

Wisdom:

1. Knowing what is good.
2. Discerning what is morally good and what is morally evil.
3. Using reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; applying moral principles to particular cases without error and overcoming doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1806)

Courage:

1. Doing what is right when it is difficult.
2. Remaining firm during trials and constantly pursuing what is good.
3. Firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good; the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808)

Integrity:

1. Honesty and trustworthiness.
2. Speaking and acting in accordance with the truth.
3. Truth in human action and speech; the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and in guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2468)

Creativity:

1. Making something beautiful.
2. Using our talents from God to produce something true, good, and beautiful.
3. Using our intellects and talents to make something that reflects the order and mind of God by embodying wisdom, inspiring goodness, and radiating the beauty of his creation. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2501. See also *Gaudium et spes*, §62)

Humility:

1. Putting others before ourselves and God above all.
2. Acknowledging that everyone and everything is a gift from God; seeking the good of others before ourselves and God's will above all.

3. Recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God; recognizing that others are made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated as a unique gift from God. (See Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, IIa IIae, q.161, a.3.)

Faith:

1. Believing in God and what he tells us about himself.
2. Believing the truths God has revealed through Scripture, Tradition, and the Catholic Church.
3. The theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1814)

Hope:

1. Trusting in God and his saving love.
2. Firmly trusting that God will give us eternal life and the means to obtain it.
3. The theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1817)

Charity:

1. Loving God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.
2. Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind and loving our neighbor as ourselves. (See *Matthew* 22:37,39)
3. The theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1822)