



Roots & Wings



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The Virtue of Prudence

By Laurie Liesen

In contemporary contexts, when people discuss prudence, they usually refer to someone who is sly, cunning, and shrewd in dealing with people and situations. In contrast, the Christian understanding of prudence is entirely different in purpose and practice. Prudence is the ability to make right decisions or choices. It is concerned with how we achieve the purpose of our lives. As a Christian virtue, prudence directs and guides our natural inclinations toward God and goodness. This virtue helps us to distinguish good from evil, truth from lies, and facts from opinions. Prudence is considered the "mother" of all the other cardinal virtues—justice, courage, and temperance. It makes these other virtues good, perfecting the ability to make right decisions. Nevertheless, prudence and the other cardinal virtues are incomplete and insufficient if they are not combined with the theological virtues. The virtue of love shapes prudence and thus all of our moral actions. When we make moral decisions, they should be guided by our knowledge of God and His message to love Him and others, not on our own self-interest. A concrete example of the realization of prudence is the Ten Commandments. Every violation of these commandments is a sin and opposed to prudence. As we face various moral questions throughout our lives, we need to be aware of the basis of our decisions, asking why and for what purpose and whether it is for the common good. We need the virtue of prudence to provide the guide for our actions so that they are based on love for God as well as others.

Sources:

Joseph Pieper (1965). *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

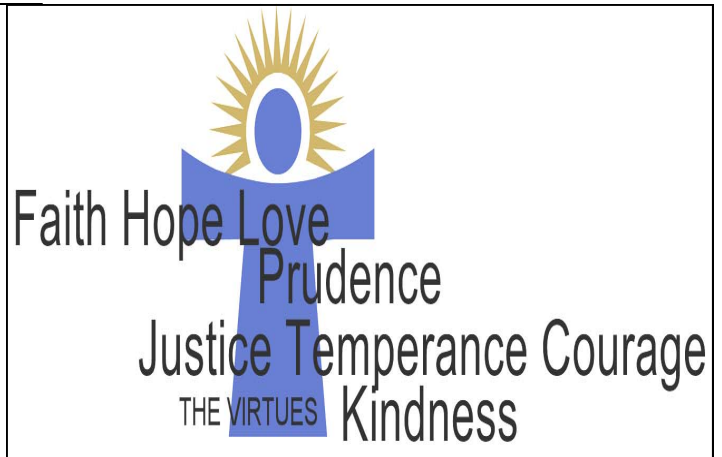
Stenson, James (2003). "Educating in Virtue." Catholic Educator's Resource Center. Accessed January 4, 2006.

<http://www.catholiceducation.org>

[/links/jump.cgi?ID=428](http://www.catholiceducation.org/links/jump.cgi?ID=428).

"Prudence is needed if man is to carry through his impulses and instincts for right acting, if he is to purify his naturally good predispositions and make them into real virtue. . . ."

—Josef Pieper, *The Four Cardinal Virtues*



Prudence Bibliography

The Catholic Life Committee has identified the following books which may help explore the virtue of prudence:

For ages under 8:

Johnson, Ann Donegan. *The Value of Foresight: The Story of Thomas Jefferson*
Lakin, Patricia. *Clara Barton : Spirit of the American Red Cross*
Payne, Lauren Murphy, *We Can Get Along: A Child's Book of Choices*
Raatma, Lucia. *Prudence*
Taylor, Kenneth Nathaniel. *Right Choices: Helping Kids Live God's Way*



Ages 8-12:

Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul : 101 Stories of Changes, Choices, and Growing up for Kids
John Paul II, Pope. *For the Children : Words of Love and Inspiration from His Holiness Pope John Paul II*
Putnam, Lillian R. *Tough Issues, Good Decisions*
Shura, Mary Francis, *Gentle Annie: The True Story of a Civil War Nurse*

Ages Over 12:

Stretch Your Wings: Famous Black Quotations for Teens
Wandberg, Robert. *Making Tough Decisions : Working Through Hard Choices*

**Ronald McDonald
House Charities:
Saving our pull tabs
to do our part!**

By Reilly Jo Swanson,
5th grader at IJP School



Recently, some of our students (Kendall Boyd, Sydney Hayes, Aliyah Griffin, and I) took a trip to the Ronald McDonald House at Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn. We went there because, if you did not know, we (school and parish) collected 40 pounds of pull tabs (pop tabs) and delivered them to the Ronald McDonald House. As we walked in and saw these warm, loving faces, we thought, "Wow - they must treat the families with children in the hospital like family!" The representatives that went know how important it is to bring in pull tabs because they can be recycled and turned into money for charities. When you bring in some pull tabs, they send them to a local steel company that gives money back for how many you bring in. Can you believe how much money we would get from just 40 pounds of pull tabs? The people there were so excited to see how many we brought in!

When we got there, we walked around and asked, "How many rooms are here?" The lady who was giving us a short tour said, "Sixteen, and mostly all of them are filled, except for maybe one or two." Since it was close to Christmas, they had their Christmas tree up already. This tree was much taller than any ordinary tree. All of the ornaments on the tree were brought in by the families that have lived there while their children were in Hope Children's Hospital. It was the prettiest tree ever.

I know we made a difference but the question is, "Now, can you make a difference?" To help make a difference, try putting a sign over your garbage can or recycling bin saying "Please pull off your pop tabs" and have a container sitting close by for tabs. That is one really easy way. We felt like amazing people for what we did because we helped those families there with donations for food, toys, clothes, toiletries, and services. We don't know how we helped for sure, but we know it meant a lot to the families and the employees. We are continuing this service project throughout the school year, so don't forget to keep bringing in those tabs! The next time we go to drop off tabs, maybe new representatives will want to come!

Movies From a Catholic Perspective



It can be difficult to assess whether a movie is appropriate for our families. With many websites available containing movie reviews, it's helpful to know that there is a Catholic website, reviewing movies from a Catholic perspective. (<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/movies/list.htm>) offers movie reviews and news with a Catholic perspective. This website includes reviews of *2012*, *The Kite Runner*, *Harry Potter* series, and many others. The reviews are written by film critics for the United States Conference of Bishops Office of Film and Broadcasting complete movie review. Other movies reviewed include: *Capote*, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, *Yours, Mine & Ours*, as well as many animated films.

The website uses the following classifications:

A-I -- general patronage;

A-II -- adults and adolescents;




A-III -- adults;

L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

O -- morally offensive.

For example, *2012* received an A-III classification.

Our IJP Catholic Life Committee is always looking for members of the IJP family to write book and movie reviews for *Roots and Wings*. If you have any interest please contact Natalie Lamb at seslam@ameritech.net or leave a note in the IJP School Office marked "Catholic Life Committee".

JESUS
THE WAY, 
THE TRUTH, 
THE LIFE. 

Prayer for January

You are the Way,
the Truth, the Life
Without the Way,
there is no going.
Without the Truth,
there is no knowing.
Without the Life,
there is no growing.
Show us the way
that we may go.
Teach us the truth
that we may know.
Teach us the life that we
may grow eternally.

Looking for a good movie?

For a lesson in prudence on film, check out the following movies:

- *A Man for All Seasons*
- *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*
- *The Music Man*
- *Pinocchio*
- *The Sound of Music*
- *Fiddler on the Roof*
- *Quiz Show*

Why Do We Do That?

Taking a Closer Look at Catholic Rituals, Beliefs and Traditions...

by Lisa Moore



Why Scapulars?

"Catholics wear religious articles, such as medals and scapulars as a type of personal devotion. *Scapulars*—coming from the Latin *scapula*, meaning *shoulder*—are worn around the neck and have two pieces of cloth—one piece rests on the chest and the other on the back. These items aren't considered good luck charms, magical amulets, or the like. And Catholics don't believe they prevent sickness or stop you from sinning. We use them as mere reminders to stay close to God and to try to imitate the sanctity and holiness of the saints. They're tangible symbols of our faith, such as a crucifix."

"The practice of wearing scapulars comes from the thirteenth century, when Saint Simon Stock saw an apparition of Mary. She told him that all who wore the scapular would be saved from Hell, for on the Saturday after their deaths she would take them to Heaven."


Today, Catholics wear any one of several kinds of scapulars. "The most famous is the Brown Scapular that's associated with the Carmelite Order of Priests and Nuns. It has a picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on one side and a picture of Saint Simon Stock on the other. Other scapulars include the Black Scapular of the Servite Order, which has an image of Our Lady of Sorrows on it, the Blue Scapular of the Immaculate Conception, the Red Scapular of the Precious Blood, the Purple Scapular of St. Joseph, the White Scapular of the Dominican Order, and the Green Scapular of Our Lady, Help of the Sick" — just to name a few. However, the history behind any scapular is worth learning, simply because of the many wonderful stories associated with the devotion to it!

Do you have a question about a Catholic ritual, belief or custom? If so, write to us at: The Catholic Life Committee, c/o Infant Jesus of Prague, 1131 Douglas Avenue, Flossmoor, IL 60422. Or send an e-mail to Lisa Moore at: moorelp@sbcglobal.net.

Sources: Kevin Orlin Johnson, PhD. *Why Do Catholics Do That?*. New York, New York: The Random House Publishing Group, 1994.

Helen Keeler and Susan Grimby. *The Everything Catholicism Book*. Avon, Massachusetts: Adams Media, 2003.

Rev. John Trigilio Jr., PhD, ThD and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD. *Catholicism for Dummies*. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley Publishing, 2003.



Roots & Wings

"There are two lasting bequests we can
hope to give our children.
One is roots; the other, wings."
~ Hodding Carter II