

ENRICHMENT: VIRTUE

Living with Justice

Justice is the cardinal virtue that enables us to give what is due to God and others.

Sometimes we think that justice is about equality and everybody getting the same amount. For example, if there were five students and five candy bars, it would be just to give one candy bar to each student. It would be unjust if one student got two candy bars and one got none! Indeed, it is sometimes just to give everybody an equal amount.

But sometimes it would be unjust to give everybody the same amount. For example, if you were on a sports team and you worked really hard and beat all the other teams, it would be unjust to give everybody the same gold medal. Even worse, it would be unjust if the third-place team got a gold medal and your first-place team got bronze.

Justice isn't the same as equality. Justice means giving others what they are due.

Sometimes justice requires everyone receiving the same amount. And sometimes justice requires giving some people more and some people less, because some people deserve more and some people deserve less.

In justice, we owe God everything because He is God and gave us everything. Therefore, a just person puts God first in all things.

It would be unjust to prioritize sports, family, or friends over God. For example, let's say you had a sports game on Sunday. You do have an obligation to your team, but you also have an obligation to God. In justice, our obligation is to God first. So, it would be unjust to skip Mass in order to play the game. We are not giving God what is due to Him.



A just person gives what is due to God.



A just person helps her family with chores.



A just person gives back to his community and country.

Journal Reflection

Write down one way you can put God first in your life. Why is this the just thing to do? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.

Prayer to Grow in Virtue

God, help us realize that justice is about giving others what is due to them. May we always put You first in our lives because it is just, but more importantly, because we love You. Amen.