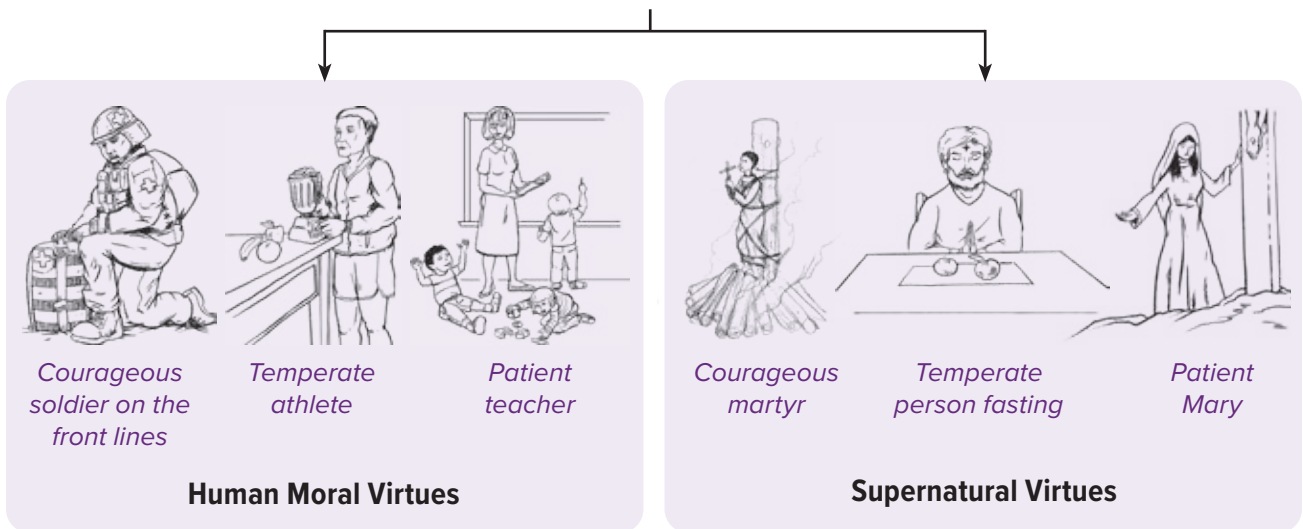


Human and Supernatural Virtue

When you think of a virtuous person, whom do you think of?



You probably know many people who are virtuous and yet are not Catholic or even Christian. These people have human moral virtues. These virtues lead them to a certain degree of earthly happiness. They have gained this virtue on their own and through their own actions.

But only those in the state of grace can have their human virtues purified and elevated. Through grace, our human moral virtues become supernatural virtues. This means they ultimately lead us to a supernatural fulfillment with God in Heaven. We can grow in these virtues if we open ourselves to God's grace and love.

Notice the difference between the two sides. The soldier, athlete, and teacher are doing something virtuous but in such a way that leads only to happiness on this earth. But the virtues of the martyr, penitent, and Mary lead them to Heaven. They live happy lives here on earth and prepare themselves for an eternity with God. Their virtue is extremely different because of God's grace. Through His grace and virtue, God has sanctified these people.

We have the supernatural virtues, including the theological virtues, only if we remain in the state of grace. Therefore, if we commit a mortal sin, we should quickly go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through this sacrament, we can once again receive God's grace and the supernatural virtues!

Journal Reflection

What makes the supernatural virtues so important? What kinds of daily prayers do you pray to ask God for more of His grace and virtue? Write your answers on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)