



# The Brothers' Way: 10 Virtues of a Brothers' Boy

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Throughout the school year we reflect on the Five Core Principles of Lasallian Education and seek to manifest them in the lives of the CBHS community through their respective virtues. Virtues are the firm and habitual dispositions to do the good. For each core principle, the first virtue is applied to form the personal and interior disposition that embodies the spirit of that core principle, and the second virtue is concerned with practically exercising the core principle in our daily actions.

**I. Inclusive Community:** The Lasallian Core Principle of Inclusive Community starts with personal *gratitude* which leads to brotherly *encouragement*.

## August - Gratitude

In August, we focus on the virtue of gratitude. We reflect and humbly acknowledge that the great traditions and faith that we share are extended to us freely from our predecessors. True gratitude focuses on the gifts that we share. Gratitude focuses on all the blessings we receive from being included in a special community. The virtue of gratitude creates the disposition that is essential for fostering an inclusive community.

## September - Encouragement

In September, we focus on the virtue encouragement. Brothers are called to encourage each other in all that they do. By offering a smile, a pat on the back, or friendly words, we can encourage others during difficult times and help promote community among our brothers. By virtuous acts of encouragement, we build an inclusive community for all.

**II. Respect for All Persons:** *The Lasallian Core Principle of Respect for all Persons:* Filled with humility, we esteem others more than ourselves, and seek to love all God's people.

## October - Humility

Respect for all persons begins in October with the virtue of humility. Although no one is perfect, we should always strive to respect them as a beloved child of God. God's love is unconditional. We do not earn it; that's humbling. The virtue of humility fosters the disposition that recognizes the inherent dignity and respect for persons.

### November - Love

Throughout November, we study the virtue love. Although we all have unique qualities and characteristics, the love we have for all human life promotes the dignity of every person. The virtue of love, especially to those in most need of love ensures the principle of respect for every person.

**III. Concern for the Poor and Social Justice:** *The Lasallian Core Principle of Concern for the Poor and Social Justice: Through sacrifice of ourselves and service to others we show our concern for those less fortunate than we are.*

### December - Sacrifice

In December, we reflect on the virtue of sacrifice. Sacrifice by nature is an interior struggle. When you sacrifice, you give a part of yourself. Your sacrifice is a gift no one else can give. Give yourself to those around you. Help your brother out. Help him carry his burden. When you see someone struggle, you can either be a bystander or a brother. The virtue of sacrifice fosters the disposition of concern for the poor and for social justice.

### January - Service

This month we strive to attain the virtue of service. Reflecting on the virtue of service helps us to be renewed in our commitment to the Lasallian principle of concern for the poor and social justice. A Brothers' Boy sees a need and takes action. If we are blind to the needs of others, then we will certainly fail to act. Following our Lord, we want service to be part of our daily lives. We want to be a community of Christian servants. The virtue of service puts into action the principle of concern for the poor and social justice.

**IV. Faith in the Presence of God:** *The Lasallian Core Principle of Faith in the Presence of God: In prayer, we come into God's holy presence and receive the zeal to be a devoted Christian Brother.*

### February - Prayer

This Month we strive to attain the virtue of prayer. This means we try to pray every day, so that our life becomes an ongoing prayer. By encountering the holy presence of God in prayer, our soul comes to life. We cultivate a disposition that is more receptive of God's voice and inspiration. We are committed to becoming men of prayer and brothers of Faith. The virtue of prayer gives us the disposition to always remember that we are in the Holy presence of God.

## **March - Zeal**

The Brothers' Way Virtue of the month for March is zeal. What if you went about your day feeling fully alive? People would notice that something is different. St. Paul writes to Timothy "Fan into flame the gift of God that you have... God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but of power, and love, and self-control." (2 Tim 1:6, 7) The spirit of zeal is real. By tapping into the love of God, we exude the presence of God to all around us. The virtue of zeal makes the invisible faith in the presence of God become clearly shown in our daily actions.

**V. Quality Education:** *The Lasallian Core Principle of Quality Education:* Quality education is the fruit of personal integrity and academic determination.

## **April - Integrity**

During the month of April, we pray for and reflect on the Brothers' Way virtue of integrity. Integrity makes a brother reliable and trustworthy. Integrity is when a person's moral character is upheld despite the trying circumstances. Integrity demonstrates that you are not susceptible to corruption. The virtue of integrity builds the disposition to always be honest even when no one is looking. The virtue of integrity keeps quality education is just an honest endeavor.

## **May - Determination**

As we continue to uphold the Lasallian tradition of quality education, we look now to the virtue of determination. Determination is a necessary virtue. Without determination, we lack the fortitude to grow when times get tough. Without determination, we look for fancy ways to get things done or maybe we try to find the easiest way to get by. We end up spending more energy and ingenuity trying escape the cross that has been entrusted to us. Determination is simple, not complicated. Just do it. In this month, the virtue determination is exercised by overcoming all obstacles in our academic ventures to earn a quality education.