Level 7, Lesson Plan 12, Chapter 15: "The Cardinal Virtues"

- **Dinner** (6:00-6:30)
- **Aim**: The cardinal virtues, the foundation of a good life.
- **Materials**: Bibles, rosaries, Music Issue, Prayer handout, evaluations, pencils
- **Key Words (Vocabulary)**:
  - **cardinal virtues**: The four main virtues or habits of good actions. They are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.
  - **prudence**: Prudence helps us to do good and avoid evil by making correct decisions in life.
  - **justice**: A just person is one who renders to others what is rightfully theirs. Justice moves us to respect the rights and dignity of all human beings.
  - **temperance**: Temperance helps us to enjoy pleasures with moderation. It helps us to become mature, disciplined Christians.
  - **fortitude**: Strength and determination in loving God and one's neighbor.
- **Explanation**

1. **Opening Prayer, Scripture Reading, and Key Words** (Matt) (6:30-6:35 PM)

   **Opening Prayer**: Heavenly Father, As we gather tonight we ask You to help us to understand, develop, and practice the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. Grant us the grace to live daily in Christ's love so that we might live virtuous lives and achieve peace and joy here on earth and the happiness of everlasting life with You in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

   **Scripture Reading**: 2 Peter 1:3-11

2. **"Cardinal Moral Virtues"** (Matt) (6:35-6:37 PM)

   **Message**: We learned previously that a virtue is a permanent power that helps us to do good and avoid evil. Faith, hope, and love are supernatural theological virtues given to us by God. However, there are other supernatural virtues that must be acquired through practice. The main ones--prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude--are called cardinal moral virtues. They are called cardinal because all of our good actions (and all other moral virtues) "hinge" upon them. ("Cardinal" comes from the Latin word meaning "a hinge.") The cardinal virtues are the foundation of a good life; by practicing them we become virtuous.

3. **"Prudence"** (Matt) (6:37-6:39 PM)
Message: Prudence is the ability to make correct choices in life. It is the virtue of deciding one's true good and determining the right way to achieve it. For example, one's true good might be to get an "A" on a religion test. It would not be prudent to achieve that "A" by cheating. True prudence requires both the discernment of the true good and of the right way to achieve it. The true good will never be sinful or something that leads us away from God.

4. "Justice" (Matt) (6:39-6:43 PM)

Message: Justice is giving others, including God, what is due to them. This means that since we owe God worship, we render God worship. We owe our parents obedience and respect; we then give them obedience and respect.

St. Thomas More as an example of prudence and justice (see PDF document containing explanation from Teacher's Manual, pg. 159)

5. "Temperance" (Fr. Radloff) (6:43-6:46 PM)

Message: Temperance is the power to control oneself. It deals with the senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. To be temperate, we must maintain balance when using the created world around us. Each sense has an attraction (we like to watch exciting television, we like to listen to music, we are attracted to smells and tastes, we like to feel things that are pleasant and avoid things that are painful). Our senses are good and creation is good, but we must order them according to God's will. For example, eating tasty food is good but not so much that we become sick.

6. "Fortitude" (Fr. Radloff) (6:46-6:50 PM)

Message: Fortitude is the power to be courageous and to do what is right, even when it is difficult. It allows us to face every difficulty or danger with inter peace and courage. Fortitude allows us to carry our duties even if doing so might require great sacrifice and suffering. All holy martyrs of the Church showed fortitude when they remained loyal to Jesus in the face of death.

St. Maria Goretti as an example of temperance and fortitude (see PDF document containing explanation from Teacher's Manual, pg. 161)

7. Activity (Fr. Radloff, Matt) (6:50-7:05 PM)

Each team of two is to develop and perform a short skit (1-2 minutes) based on a scenario relating to one of the four cardinal virtues. Scenarios can be cut from the "Chapter 15 Activity" document and either randomly selected or assigned. Upon completion of the skit, other students can guess the virtue being demonstrated.

8. Evaluation (Matt) (7:05-7:10 PM)
Match the statement with the letter corresponding to the correct cardinal virtue.

A. Prudence  B. Justice  C. Temperance  D. Fortitude

1. The virtue by which we hold firm in pursuing the good, despite difficulty or dangers.  D

2. The virtue that helps us to judge what is truly good and to choose the right means of attaining it.  A

3. The virtue that enables us to carry out our duties even if doing so might require great sacrifice and suffering.  D

4. The virtue that enables people to give respect and obedience to their parents.  B

5. The virtue that enable someone to give worship to God.  B

6. We usually associate this virtue with food or drink.  C

7. The virtue needed whenever we are faced with a difficult decision.  A

8. The virtue by which we control our passions and desires.  C

9. The virtue by which we give each one what is due to him or her.  B

Write one or more petitions to pray during our Intercessory Prayers. For . . .

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

We pray to the Lord.

9. Prayer in the Church (Fr. Radloff) (7:10-7:30 pm)

   Exposition

   Hymn: “Father I adore you”

   Intercessory Prayers

   Divine Mercy Chaplet

   Hymn: “Sanctuary”

   Benediction

   Divine Praises

   Hymn: "Your Grace is Enough" (#628 in Music Issue)

• Dessert