

# Virtues in Practice

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who can use the Virtues in Practice program?

*Virtues in Practice* was specifically created for use in Catholic elementary schools, but could easily be used by parish religious education programs, homeschooling families and groups, or by other Catholic groups for educational or catechetical purposes.

### How does the program work?

*Virtues in Practice* is structured so that an entire elementary school community (religious education program, homeschooling group, etc.) studies the same virtue each month during the course of a regular school year of September through May. The curriculum spirals, and every three years the same virtues are repeated with greater depth, and new saints are introduced as models of those virtues. The program includes a cycle of a Year of Faith (Year I), Year of Hope (Year II), and Year of Charity (Year III).

If a school is just beginning *Virtues in Practice*, it would start with the Year of Faith (Year I), and each student would receive the appropriate grade level Year of Faith book. The following year, the entire school would use books for the Year of Hope (Year II), followed the next year by the Year of Charity (Year III), and then beginning again with the Year of Faith (Year I), and so forth. The following chart may be helpful in providing a visual overview.

### SAMPLE:

2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continued pattern...
YEAR I: Year of Faith	YEAR II: Year of Hope	YEAR III: Year of Charity	YEAR I: Year of Faith	YEAR II: Year of Hope	YEAR III: Year of Charity	
Emphasis on Service	Emphasis on Study	Emphasis on Community	Emphasis on Service	Emphasis on Study	Emphasis on Community	

Each year:

- Students study the same virtue each month and have the same definition of that virtue
- Students study saints who exemplify the month's virtue; saints differ according to grade level

### I will be using this program for my school or parish religious education program. Which books do we need to print?

You will need to give a copy of the appropriate grade level book for the year to each student. Each family should also receive a Parent Guide. The Parent Guide contains the home

activities for ALL grades and ALL years, so families do not need to have new copies every year, but can simply use the same copy during the entire elementary school period.

I am a homeschooling parent and would like to use this with my children.

Which books do I need to print?

You will need to print one copy for each child from the appropriate grade level, and a Parent Guide for yourself.

How can I access the program?

The entire program is available for free download from the website of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation, at <http://www.nashvilledominican.org/apostolate/evangelization-and-catechesis/virtues-in-practice/>.

I downloaded a book, but when I opened the document on my computer it was illegible. Any suggestions on how to fix this problem?

The files are in PDF, so the best solution for this difficulty is to install the latest version of Adobe Reader. It is available for free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> and takes a few minutes to install. In almost all cases, installing the updated version of Adobe Reader solves the problem and the documents can then be opened and printed.

Are the books available for purchase?

In order to make the program available free of charge for any Catholic school, parish, family, or association wishing to make use of it, the program is strictly available in electronic format and will not be printed or sold.

Do you have any recommendations for the best way to print the documents?

Printing of the documents will depend on the resources at your disposal. Homeschooling families may simply wish to print the documents on their home printers. Schools or religious education programs may print copies of the books on their school copiers. The copyright permits you to also take the document to a commercial printer in your area, where you could have a spiral-bound or other more permanent copy printed, provided that the document is printed in its entirety and is not sold.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA CONGREGATION  
801 Dominican Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37228  
[www.nashvilledominican.org](http://www.nashvilledominican.org)



Further questions may be directed to [virtuesprogram@op-tn.org](mailto:virtuesprogram@op-tn.org). God bless you!