

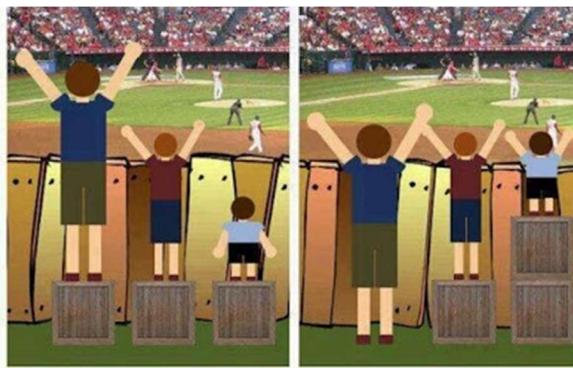
4/1/19

Dear St. Rita Parents,

**Justice.** Focus virtue for the month of April. What does justice mean to you? Your family? At home? As you go about your day in the suburbs of Dallas? In the world in general?

At school, we are using the definition of *being fair* for our younger students, and *being fair and giving each his due* for our older students. One of the four cardinal virtues, justice, leads us to fairness in all things and with all people.

I am not a golfer, but understand the concept of a “handicap” in golf to be one example of this idea of being just. We may need to have a different starting point in scoring in order to make the game fair. Not everyone needs (is due) the same thing, so fairness is not always about being equal or the same. I know I have caught myself being stuck in the “fairness” trap at times with my own children. This understanding that justice allows me to give each what they need helps me manage this trap. The cartoon below is a visual way to help with understanding about fair vs. equal.



Moving deeper into justice, beyond the idea of fairness, we build on the practice of our other virtues. Having **gratitude** for what we have been given leads us to the understanding that we owe our teachers and parents respect for all they have done for us. The virtue of **justice** reminds us the respect is due to those in authority. This certainly does not mean that children do not get to have an opinion about anything, or must practice blind obedience in all things, as we want to raise children to be thinking adults, but, it is important to acknowledge that respect is due to the adults who raise and educate children (as well as anyone in authority, such as police officers and government officials).

In this same way, we as adults, owe God our love and respect, which means we honor and obey, knowing God will be just with us in his judgement. How blessed are we that God is all knowing and therefor knows our intentions and all that we have done and looks on us with **mercy**.

For specific ideas on incorporating the practice of justice into your family life this month, please see the ideas for home here: <https://4.files.edl.io/bf5d/04/01/19/143342-6e32fbef-51a0-4585-bd3b-b62ee6172dcc.pdf>. In addition, I hope to see many of you at our Parent Focus Circle on Friday, April 26 at 9:00 am in the coffee area of the Parish Commons.

As always, blessings to each of you,

Lisa

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