

*Office of Child and Youth Protection*

# Diocese of Baton Rouge

*\*\*\* Family night is a great time to discuss the Virtues with children and young people.*

## Learn-Practice-Teach-Encourage...Charity Is the Key to Creating Safe Communities for Children



**What is Charity?** Charity is the virtue by which we love God above all and love our neighbor as ourselves. God is charity. The Trinity of Persons is a communion of love. When we dwell and abide in Christ, this love of the Trinity, through grace, flows into and through us, and touches our experiences of daily life. There is no human relationship which love cannot touch. Love unites us to others and bonds us in communion with others. Love on earth is a foretaste of what

heaven will be like. Charity is a movement away from hatred. A word for love which is also appropriately used when referring to self-donating love is agape.

**Why Practice Charity?** There can always be more charity in hearts, in families, in relationships, among people and nations. Charity draws people together, while sin alienates, isolates and divides people. Charity brings joy of deep sharing in life, while sin brings loneliness. Charity brings light and goodness into the world, in our seemingly insignificant acts throughout the day and night. We are Christians and this means not only imitating Jesus but also letting Him live and love in us. We grow in union with who we really are, and are less alienated from our true dignity as a person made in God's image. We grow in communion with others. Our work habits, leisure pursuits and activities of daily living take on a different meaning when love animates and transfigures them, one act at a time.

### **Evidence that I am living in Charity every day may include...**

- I love God for how He has designed me.
- I donate my time, talent and treasure. I can sacrifice with joy.
- I share my belongings and give gifts to others.
- I let my desires and loves in life be purified and transformed by God's love.
- While I learn things in my education, I am filled with wonder and awe as each truth points me back to God.
- I am able to respond to suffering people in my life, with care and love.