

GOSPEL VALUES

A summary statement

All Gospel Values are grounded in the experience of Christian faith.

Faith

Faith is the gift by which one recognises and surrenders to God; faith is a free response to the free gift of God; faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11 1); at the heart of a mature faith is the humble surrender to the will of God; faith is a knowing 'beyond reason' but it is not incompatible with reason or in any sense 'irrational'.

In Christian faith one grows in knowledge of the mystery of God revealed in Christ. This is the foundation upon which all authentic Gospel Values are built. "The work of the Catholic school is seen as promoting a faith relationship with Christ in whom all values find fulfillment" ('The Catholic School', paragraph 53)

Awe and Wonder	An ability to marvel at the complexity of the created world.
Celebration	Appreciating the human need to commemorate important events and life stages by various rituals.
Common Good	Total human well being which takes into account the needs of the whole community. Individual rights must always be assessed in light of the Common Good.
Community	A sense of belonging among a group of people with a shared vision committed to loving service.
Conservation	Maintaining and cherishing what is good in the environment with a view to ecological/environmental sustainability.
Courage	Choices, commitments and actions made in accord with what one believes to be true and right; a willingness to persevere in the face of suffering and opposition.
Cultural Critique	Informed awareness of the injustices and inequities in society and a willingness to work to change these.

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Dignity of each human person	The person is created in the image of God. Therefore, all human life is sacred. The basic source of human dignity lies in humanity's call to communion with God. Respect for life, and above all the dignity of the human person, is the ultimate guiding norm of any sound economic, industrial or scientific progress.
Family	However it is expressed or understood, the family is cherished and fostered as the primary unit of belonging in society. It assumes personal values of identity, love, commitment and self sacrifice for the sake of the family unit.
Global Solidarity and the Earth Community	All creatures and all of creation are intrinsically valuable and linked.
Hope	A spirit of optimism and joy sustained by faith; an enduring and sustaining trust in providence.
Hospitality	An attitude of openness, understanding and welcome to others.
Human Rights	All people have the universal human right to live with dignity and freedom from oppression.
Justice	The right ordering of relationships and right exercise of power in a way that is life-giving for all people.
Love	The gift of sincere care, concern, empathy and compassion extended to others; love is patient, kind, humble, forgiving and trusting (cf: 1Cor 13:1-13). The love 'which is poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us' (Rom 5.5)
Multicultural Understanding	Positive interaction with other cultures for mutual enrichment; an openness to understanding and dialogue toward those of different cultural backgrounds.
Peace	Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among humans and among nations; seeking peaceful, life-enhancing solutions to conflict; peace is more than simply the absence of war or conflict.
Reconciliation	Reaching out in a spirit of dialogue, forgiveness and mutual respect; closely linked to love and justice.
Sacredness of Life	Seeing life as a gift from God to be respected.
Service	Loving care for the needs of others.

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Stewardship of Creation	Honouring the created universe as a gift from a loving Creator God given in trust for all. People respect and share the resources of the earth, since we are all part of the community of creation. By our work we are co-creators in the continuing development of the earth.
Structural Change	Addressing root causes of injustice and changing unjust systems and structures; the transformation process which seeks a society which is life-enhancing for every person.
Self Respect (Self Esteem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper esteem or regard for the dignity of one's character and person;• Due respect for oneself one's character, and one's conduct;• The deep conviction of one's own inner worth;• The quality of being worthy of esteem or respect; "it was beneath his/her dignity to cheat"; "showed his/her true dignity when under pressure.." <p>A capacity to love others assumes self esteem, that is, a felt sense of one's inherent confidence, dignity and freedom. This is to value one's individuality and uniqueness. It is the capacity to see oneself with the same delight and expectation with which God sees each person.</p>