

# The Cardinal Virtues for the Catholic School



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# Teaching the Cardinal Virtues

The Ideas

The Virtues in *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Teaching the Cardinal Virtues Operationally

Allegory

Creating an Allegory

# allegory

The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.

American Heritage Dictionary:

al·le·go·ry

(ăl'ĭ-gôr'ē, -gôr'ē)

*n.*, *pl.*, *-ries*.

1. a. The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.


b. A story, picture, or play employing such representation. John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* are allegories.

2. A symbolic representation: *The blindfolded figure with scales is an allegory of justice.*

[Middle English *allegorie*, from Latin *allēgoria*, from Greek, from *allēgorein*, to interpret allegorically : *allos*, other + *agoreuein*, to speak publicly (from *agora*, marketplace).]

# prudence

**1806 Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; "the prudent man looks where he is going."**<sup>65</sup> "Keep sane and sober for your prayers."<sup>66</sup> Prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle.<sup>67</sup> It is not to be confused with timidity or fear, nor with duplicity or dissimulation. It is called *auriga virtutum* (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience. The prudent man determines and directs his conduct in accordance with this judgment. **With the help of this virtue we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid.**



I judge between actions and plan ahead, making the right choice at the right time.

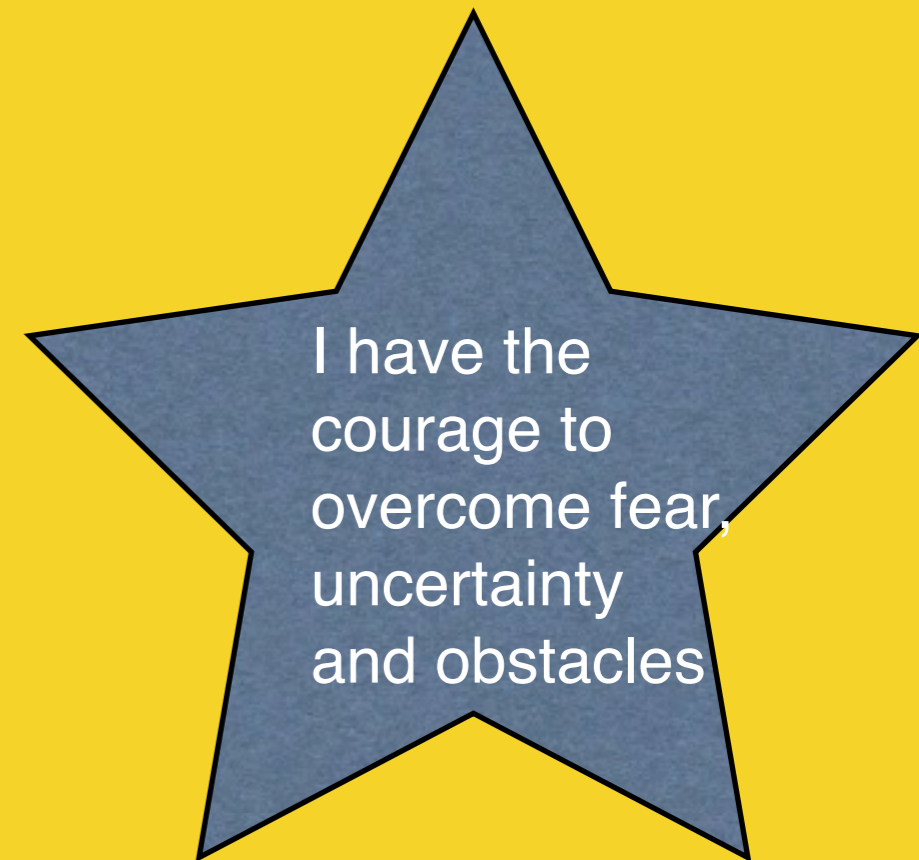
# justice

**1807 Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion."** Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good. **The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbor.** "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."<sup>68</sup> "Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."<sup>69</sup>




# fortitude

**1808 Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good.** It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. **The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions.** It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. "The Lord is my strength and my song."<sup>70</sup> "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."<sup>71</sup>

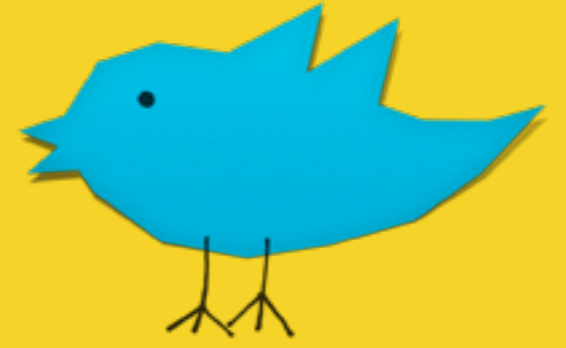
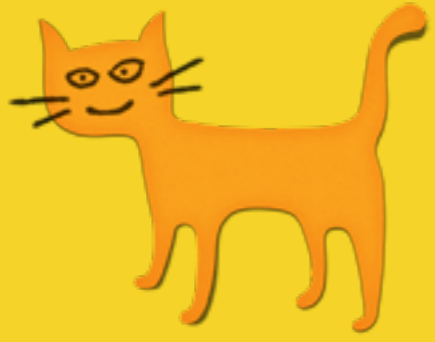


# temperance

**1809 Temperance is the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable.** The temperate person directs the sensitive appetites toward what is good and maintains a healthy discretion: "Do not follow your inclination and strength, walking according to the desires of your heart."<sup>72</sup> Temperance is often praised in the Old Testament: "Do not follow your base desires, but restrain your appetites."<sup>73</sup> In the New Testament it is called "moderation" or "sobriety." **We ought "to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world."**<sup>74</sup>



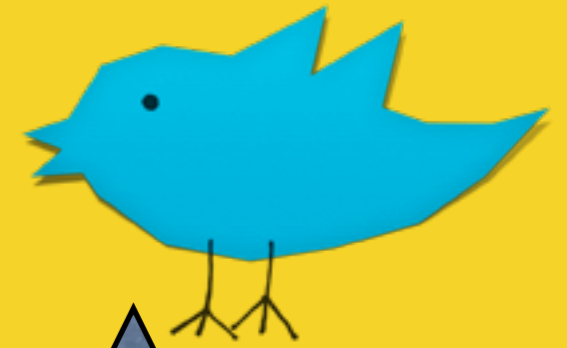
I restrain  
myself with  
self-control  
and  
moderation







**prudence**  
**justice**  
**fortitude**  
**temperance**



I judge between actions and plan ahead, making the right choice at the right time.

**prudence**

I balance my self-interest with the rights and needs of others

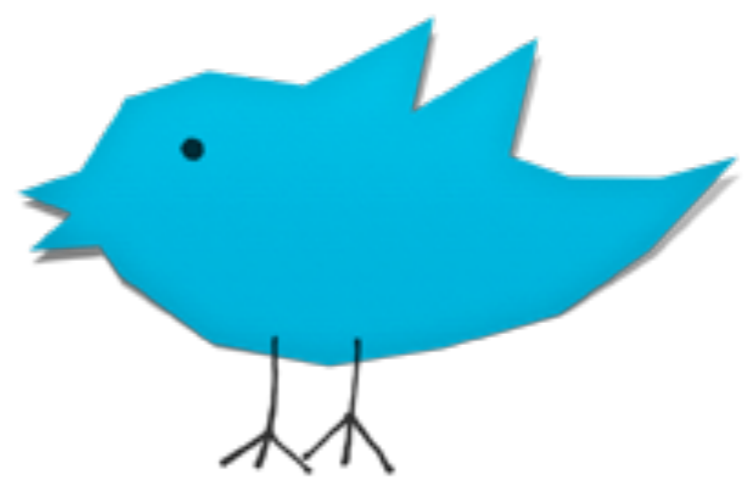
**justice**

**fortitude**

I have the courage to overcome fear, uncertainty and obstacles

**temperance**

I restrain myself with self-control and moderation





**prudence**  
**justice**  
**fortitude**  
**temperance**

