



St. Augustine's Seminary - Senior Division Lesson

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

The following lesson is meant to shed light on the beautiful gift of ShareLife. For the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Toronto, ShareLife provides an authentic, transparent and reliable structure for charitable giving. ShareLife supports numerous outreach groups and is dedicated to the poor and marginalized people in our communities. Your sharing of this gift, by means of educating and igniting students, is fulfilling your baptismal call to spread the Good News and know that you are an integral part of body of Christ. Blessings to you as you embark on this journey.

Official Website: <http://www.sharelife.org>

About ShareLife: <http://bit.ly/aboutsharelifevideo>

A TEACHER'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

You place before me students who are eager to do your will.

Fill my words and actions so that they might come to share in the life of the community by caring for those who need support and assistance. May we collectively focus our attention on the dignity of the human person at all stages of life and may we work tirelessly to serve you in love.

AMEN

ABOUT SHARELIFE

MISSION: To live the Gospel by providing for those in need.

VISION: The Catholic community and its partners responding generously with justice and love.

PRINCIPLES:

- Reverence for life at all stages
- Commitment to Catholic Social Teaching
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Responsible and accountable for resources

LESSON NAME

How to be a Responsible Citizen

FOCUS QUESTION

What makes us a Responsible Citizen?

LEARNING FOCUS

Religious Education Expectations	Assessment <i>for Learning</i>
Specific Expectations 	Evidence of Learning/ “I Can” Statement
<p>PFV.04: </p> <p>Identify various ways in which the Church expresses itself as the “people of God” (CCC §781-786)</p> <p>PF1.04:</p> <p>Demonstrate that the work begun by Jesus continues in the world through the Church and its members</p>	<p>Students will/I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that we are all members of one community and as such, we are called to help anyone who needs support. • Identify how members of my community are using their gifts and talents to help others. • Describe how ShareLife supports missions and outreach programs • Describe how ShareLife supports St. Augustine’s Seminary

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

A Responsible Citizen is someone who:

- a. Acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions
- b. Accepts accountability for one’s own actions
- c. Seeks and grants forgiveness
- d. Promotes the sacredness of life
- e. Witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society
- f. Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures
- g. Respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today’s contemporary society

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

Exodus 22:20-26	You shall not oppress the poor or vulnerable. God will hear them cry.
Matthew 18:21-22	... how many times shall I forgive...
Luke 6:31	Do for others just as you would want them to do for you.
1 John 4:8	There is no fear in love.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Rights and Responsibilities: We all have a right to those things which are required by *Human Dignity*. Rights arise from what we need to live as God intended us to. These are innately linked with our responsibility to ensure the rights of others – that we do not take more than is needed to fulfill our rights at the expense of another's.

Preferential Option for the Poor: The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable are treated. God's love is universal, so this principle does not intend that we should focus on the poor to the exclusion of others, but rather that we are called to prioritize those who are in most need of our *Solidarity*. Deacon Michael does this by supporting his community.

Solidarity: Each of us is part of the human family and we are all interconnected and interdependent. Loving our neighbour, as Deacon Michael does with his life and service, has global dimensions. We must see ourselves in others and collaborate toward solutions. Solidarity is a recognition that we are 'all in this together,' and is a commitment to strengthen community and promote a just society.

<https://www.devp.org/en/cst>

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTION

ENG4U – English, Grade 12, University

- **1.2 Generating and Developing Ideas:** Generate, expand, explore, and focus ideas, for potential writing tasks using a variety of strategies and print, electronic, and other resources as appropriate
- **2.2 Voice:** Establish a distinctive and original voice in their writing, modifying language and tone skilfully and effectively, to suit the form, audience, and purpose for writing

INFORMING YOUR FAITH AND PREPARING TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"Deacons play a vital role in evangelizing both to the gathered and the scattered in our community. Their ministry is of great importance to our archdiocese answering the call of Jesus to love and serve."

The sacrament of Holy Orders has three levels: deacon (servant), priest (elder), and bishop (overseer). In the early days of the Church all three levels were active in the service of the Christian community, but after several centuries the order of deacon largely disappeared, except as a stage on the way to the priesthood, especially in Western Christianity. The Second Vatican Council decided that the order of deacon should be revived as a permanent order in the life of the Church. Since then thousands of deacons have been ordained, and most dioceses in Canada and the United States benefit from their service.

Deacons are meant to work together with lay people, religious, and priests, and to support them in their mission. If we want to get a sense of the mission of the deacon, we should start with the Acts of the Apostles, where we read of the choice of seven men to help in the practical works of service in the community so that the apostles would be freed to devote themselves to prayer and the service of the word (Acts 6:1-6). The apostles ordained these men (Acts 6:6), and two of them are highlighted in the Acts of the Apostles: Stephen became the first martyr (Acts 6:8-8:1), and Philip did effective work in evangelizing (Acts 8:5-8; 8:26-40). In these passages we get early indications of two vital elements that have always been part of the deacon's vocation: it involves a proclamation of the Gospel, but is especially connected to works of practical service to the community.

"It is a deacon's task, as authorized by the competent authority, to administer Baptism solemnly, to reserve and distribute the Eucharist, to assist at and to bless marriages in the name of the Church, to take Viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside over worship and the Prayer of the Faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services. Dedicated to works of charity and functions of administration, deacons should recall the admonition of St. Polycarp: 'Let them be merciful, and zealous, and let them walk according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all'" (Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, 29).

Cardinal Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

Excerpted from [https://http://bit.ly/deaconsbackground](http://bit.ly/deaconsbackground)

CLASSROOM PLANNER**Day 1****Learning Goal:**

To be able to apply the characteristics for being a Responsible Citizen to Church teachings in a contemporary, ethical and moral fashion.

Materials:

- **Handout: (Appendix 9)** Who is a Responsible Citizen? Characteristics of a Responsible Citizen.
- **Construction Paper:** Various colours
- **Scissors:** one per student
- **Newspapers:** Images from local newspapers displaying local and world issues.
- **Chart paper:** 3 sheets
- **Markers:** one per student

GET STARTED

LEARNING GOALS

- Demonstrate how we live out our call to be Responsible Citizens
- Explain how Deacon Michael is a responsible citizen.
- Demonstrate how our support of ShareLife helps us to become responsible citizens.

BEFORE (15 minutes)

Read the following Scripture passage to the class: Exodus 22: 20-26
"You shall not oppress the poor or vulnerable. God will hear them cry."

Choose several photos from the newspaper that highlight a global issue. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4 and provide each group with a photo. Ask them to:

- Describe what is happening in the picture?
- List words that come to mind when you see this picture?
- Name the issues, locally or globally, that the picture exposes (i.e. poverty, injustice, etc.)
- What are some organizations that might help the people in the photo?
- How does the Scripture passage relate to the photo?
- What is our responsibility to support the people in the photo?

DURING

Show the video of Deacon Michael. After, have the students engage in a discussion of the video. The following statements may act as prompts.

- How does Deacon Michael show mercy and compassion?
- How is Deacon Michael a responsible citizen?
- Who are the people in our lives who model responsible citizenship?

What do you think the statement "**Be a Responsible Citizen**" means?

Introduce the Responsible Citizen Activity

- Photocopy **Appendix 9** (one per student) which lists the characteristics of Responsible Citizen from Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.
- Break the class into 10 small groups one for each of the 10 characteristics of a responsible citizen.
- Each group is given one of the characteristics of a responsible citizen
- Provide a copy of **Appendix 10** for each student.

Student Instructions

Your task is to demonstrate how the characteristics of Responsible Citizenship are lived out in the global and local community and then apply this to our Catholic school community.

- Consider how your assigned characteristic is lived out in the local and global community.
- Find an example from popular culture (a song, a video clip, a current event, a poem etc.) which highlights this characteristic and demonstrates how it contributes to our communities.
- Create a visual representation (poster, pic-collage, iMovie, etc.) of how this characteristic is or can be demonstrated in our school community.
- Report back to the class. Be sure to explain the following:
 - a. What is your characteristic?
 - b. What does it mean to you?
 - c. How is this characteristic viewed in popular culture?
- Share your example from popular culture
 - a. Be sure to explain why it was chosen and how it reflects responsible citizenship
- Share your visual representation of Responsible Citizenship
 - a. Be sure to highlight how we can live out the characteristic your group has been assigned within our school community.

AFTER**Graffiti Wall Activity**

Write each of the following statements on a large piece of mural or chart paper. Place the papers around the room so that students can access them. Students are asked to write a response to each of the statements using different coloured markers.

- How does a Deacon model responsible citizenship?
- How does Deacon Michael, specifically, model responsible citizenship?
- Through our support of ShareLife, how do we model responsible citizenship?

Close by reading the following reflection:

CHRIST HAS NO BODY

By St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks.

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks.

Compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

AMEN

Who is a Responsible Citizen? Characteristics of a Responsible Citizen

A **Responsible Citizen** is someone who gives witness to Catholic Social Teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

A responsible citizen:

- Acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions
- Accepts accountability for one's own actions
- Seeks and grants forgiveness
- Promotes the sacredness of life
- Witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society
- Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures
- Respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society
- Exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship
- Respects the environment and uses resources wisely
- Contributes to the common good

Responsible Citizen Activity Guidelines

Your task is to demonstrate how the characteristics of Responsible Citizenship are lived out in the global and local community and then apply this to our Catholic school community.

- Consider how your assigned characteristic is lived out in the local and global community.
- Find an example from popular culture (a song, a video clip, a current event, a poem etc.) which highlights this characteristic and demonstrates how it contributes to our communities.
- Create a visual representation (poster, pic-collage, iMovie, etc.) of how this characteristic is or can be demonstrated in our school community.
- Report back to the class. Be sure to explain the following:
 - a. What is your characteristic?
 - b. What does it mean to you?
 - c. How is this characteristic viewed in popular culture?
- Share your example from popular culture
 - a. Be sure to explain why it was chosen and how it reflects responsible citizenship
- Share your visual representation of Responsible Citizenship
 - a. Be sure to highlight how we can live out the characteristic your group has been assigned within our school community.