

## Core Value 2: Integrity

The word integrity comes with several layers.

A simple internet search of integrity yields this definition: “The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.” However, a second definition follows right behind it: “The state of being whole and undivided.” Both encompass the meaning of this core value for the Office of Christian Formation, which seeks to “reflect the living truth of the Church.”

Universality is a truth gift of the Catholic Church. Whether you are in another city, state, or country, the Catholic Church is home. When someone stands up and states that they are Catholic, that means something. There is a cultural strength to our practice of faith, as we live with intention and consistency in light of the Gospel. The truth of our faith becomes a reflex of the heart that acts with intention throughout our world. The *Directory for Catechesis* tells us that “the heart of every Christian [should] resound with the call to live a new life...that is capable of bringing every situation back to the way of truth and happiness that is Christ” (*Directory for Catechesis*, 83).

How is this possible? Because despite its challenges, debates, and setbacks, the truth of the Church is clear and strong. We value human dignity. We believe in the real presence of the Eucharist. We follow the guidance of our Pope and Bishops. We seek the wisdom of Tradition for guidance. We forgive. We do not alter the Church to our own comforts; we humbly yield to the truth of the Church and allow it to live within us, and throughout our communities, in vibrancy, compassion, and joy. We dedicate ourselves to details so that this truth retains its witness.

In that spirit of humility, we as ministers present Church teachings with integrity, in a way that is comprehensive, balanced, and does not divide, so that our entire lives reflect the living truth of the Church.