

Responsibilities

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Look

Uniforms help us to identify all sorts of important people: policeman, fireman, soldiers. They also help us to distinguish among people with various roles in specific settings – like doctors and nurses in a hospital.

1. Have you ever worn a uniform? What was it? Why?
2. What was your experience of wearing a uniform? Did people treat you differently when you wore a uniform? Was it in a good way or a bad way?
3. How do you engage with people you see in a uniform? Do you ever find yourself giving someone more or less respect depending upon the uniform they are wearing?

Book

Matthew 23:1-12

The scribes and the Pharisees wore a uniform so that people would know who they were, and why they were important. They used this position of status to gain special attention and certain privileges. Yet Jesus has some concerns about their behavior.

1. What does Jesus criticize the Pharisees for doing? Why are these behaviors problematic?
2. What does Jesus instruct his disciples to do? What responsibilities does Jesus give his disciples?
3. What does it mean to you to humble yourself and to be a servant? Have you ever done so? What was that like for you?

Took

As Christians, we don't wear any special garments that identify us as such. No one can tell by looking at us that we are Christians. Yet our actions should clearly, if maybe subtly, identify us as followers of Jesus. St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary use words."

1. How do you preach the gospel through your actions?
2. What is challenging for you about acting as a Christian in your daily life and work?
3. How do you think you would change if you were more intentional about being more humble and acting more as a servant, rather than a leader?