

Dignity of Workers

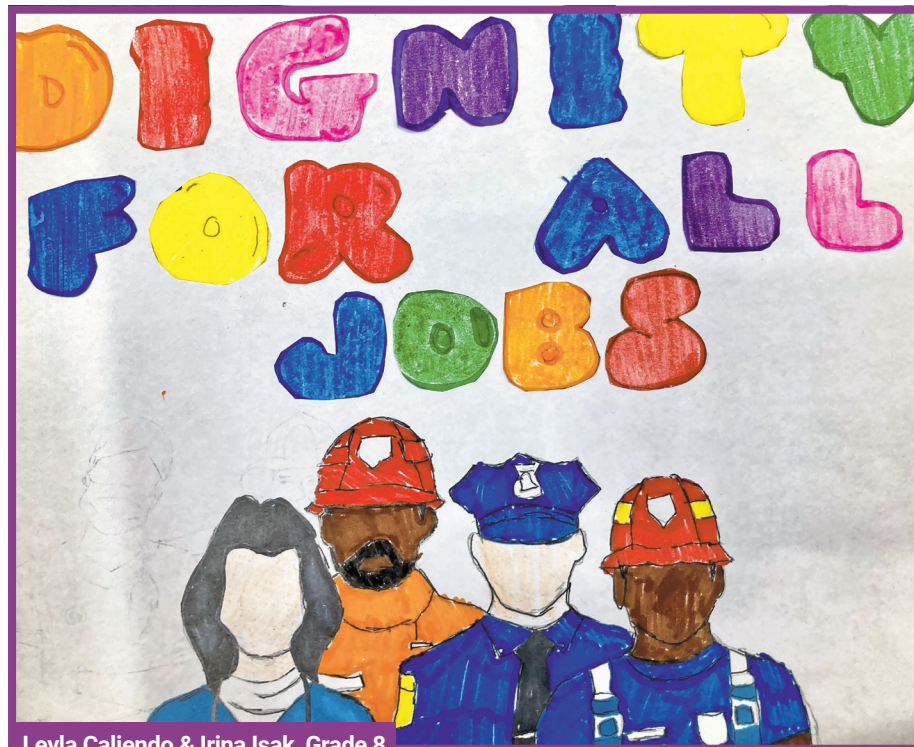
Teachers Are Essential Workers



by Shea Jacobs
Grade 7

Teachers make the future happen.

I met with a teacher who agreed to share his thoughts about the dignity of workers in general and the dignity of teachers in particular. He said he thinks other teachers, parents, and students respect teachers, but society does not. He feels that many people don't believe that teaching is an essential job. If society respected teachers, teachers would receive better support and salaries. In his work environment, he feels that his supervisor respects him, but he sometimes sees that not all colleagues are respected equally. He thinks that people think that teaching is easy because they have never done it themselves. Teaching is difficult. Not all teachers have sufficient training to control the class so the students can learn. He believes that students need to be respectful to teachers and that this should be non-negotiable. This teacher feels that the dignity of workers is that everyone who works for a living should be respected in whatever job they engage in and that if schools



Leyla Caliendo & Irina Isak, Grade 8

were more open to teaching about every culture and ethnicity, educators would be more respected. Regardless of someone's position in an organization, everyone should feel respected in their role because everyone contributes to the organization. The dignity of all workers is part of our Catholic social teachings. This is true in schools as well as businesses.

The COVID19 Pandemic had a significant effect on education. Teachers and students had to adjust to online learning. Teachers had to learn

how to teach in an entirely new manner. They could not interact with their students in the usual way. It was difficult for them to give their students the help they needed on a screen, not in person. Teachers could not make sure that their students were paying attention. Sometimes students did not have the proper technology to participate. A challenging job became much more difficult. Teachers worked hard to adjust and do the best for their students under extraordinary and challenging circumstances. As a result, perhaps society will now place more value on the contribution that teachers make and give teachers the respect and dignity they deserve.



This edition of The Tablet Jr. was created with the contributions of student journalists from St. Edmund Elementary School, Brooklyn

All Workers Are Heroes



by *Olivia Beshara*
Grade 7

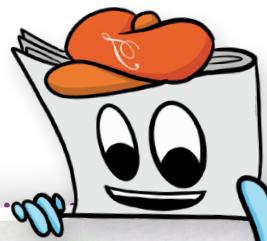
First Responders get their names because they are always the first on the scene when an emergency or a disaster occurs. When people think of first responders, firefighters automatically come to mind. This reporter had the privilege of interviewing a firefighter who is her hero, her dad. All first responders risk their lives so we can stay

safe. September 11, 2001, is a day that we will never forget. The First Responders on the scene that day had no idea what their fate would be or what tragic events were about to occur when they ran up the stairs at the Twin Towers. The FDNY lost 343 members that day; an additional 182 firefighters have since died from 9/11-related illnesses. Sadly, that number keeps rising.

When asked, "Why did you become a firefighter?" the firefighter interviewed for this article responded, "I wanted to be a firefighter when I was 26 years old after

9/11. He also responded that he feels he is treated fairly and respectfully by fellow firefighters and citizens. He added that he wouldn't change anything about his job because he thinks, "I have a great job!"

An essential worker is someone who provides a service to society. First responders are imperative workers but the pandemic has reminded us that so are many others. People often do not give other virtual workers like store clerks, waitresses, cooks, and factory workers the same respect. Some workers in these jobs are not paid a fair wage because their jobs are not valued by society. All work has dignity, and all jobs have value because all workers are essential and contribute to the common good of humanity.



Kaylin Howie
Grade 8

Martha Chaligava
Grade 8



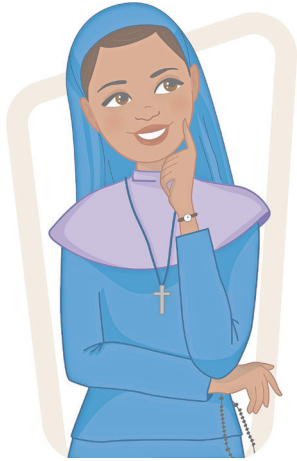
Nicholas Marcus
Grade 4



Grace Forstner
Grade 8

Art on the Walls

ASK Sister Elizabeth



What are the qualities of a good worker?

Ashton Nicascio, Grade 2

Interesting question, Ashton! Work is one of the most prominent aspects of our daily life. As Christians, we are not only called to work but to work well. Therefore, our faith should affect everything we do, including how we do our work and help our parents with home chores. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if done for the Lord and not for man, knowing that the Lord will repay you." Being a good worker means caring about what you do, and doing it with passion, respect, fairness, integrity, and honesty, even when no one is watching. If you are responsible for doing the dishes at home, do it with care, diligence, and dedication. Remember, you are not doing it for your employer, your mom or dad, but for love, you have for God and your family. You are putting your faith into action and creating a positive example for those around you.

What kind words or actions can we use to show the community workers we care about them?

Charles Gilliam, Grade 2

Thank you, Charles, for this great question! God honors expressions of gratitude towards those that serve us. No matter how little, any act of service or kindness is a reason to express appreciation. A simple verbal thank you or a formal thank you card or note is sometimes all it takes to show gratitude and make someone's moment brighter. We also show appreciation by giving back to the community – using our unique gifts to serve others. Always Remember that God loves to hear from you. Say the Hail Mary or Our Father prayer for the community workers - a simple prayer offered from the heart, expressing your thanks for the gift of those that serve our community will be the surest way to appreciate God and ask for God's blessings for them.

Is it harder to be a teacher or a police officer?

Antonio DeMarzi, Grade 2

Dear Antonio, Following your dreams and doing what you love is crucial because it reflects your work attitude. If you enjoy your job/work, though it may be hard – it doesn't feel so. A career you love only challenges you to bring out the best version of yourself and gives you the opportunity and motivation to meet your goals. It is easier to get through challenges and demanding jobs when you choose a career path that you truly believe in, that you are passionate about, and that gives you happiness. Going by your passion is not just essential for yourself but also essential for your friends, family, and the world at large, because you have a gift that the world needs.

Respect Is a Two Way Street



by **Zevulun Becker**
Grade 7

A growing concern in today's society is that people do not always respect each other and the work that they do. All workers deserve to be respected even if they do not necessarily have a job that others consider the most important. All workers contribute to making society a stable place in which to live.

Customer relations and service is an issue. Many times it is simply because one side does not see the point of view of the other side. Waiters, cashiers, cooks, receptionists, secretaries, and janitorial workers have demanding jobs that require them to complete their work at a fast pace. They often are on the receiving end of complaints by patrons about things that are out of their control. Service workers deal with dai-



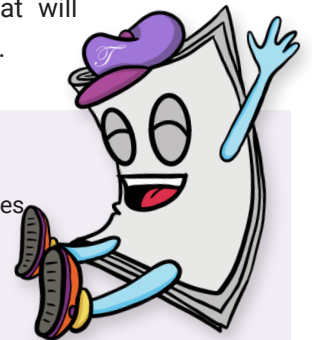
Farah Kwok
Grade 4

ly complaints. This is, as some agree is part of their job but the manner in which people often address these workers is disrespectful and demeaning. Our Catholic social teaching is to show dignity to all workers. When people call or visit a store or go to a restaurant, they expect to be treated as valued patrons of that business. Workers should equally respect the feelings and needs

of their customers.

Disrespect on both sides can occur when individuals do not respect themselves. If a worker does not value the job that they do, it will affect how they do their job. If someone who works in a difficult job does not feel like what they are doing is important or does not contribute to the good of others, they will not feel compelled to do their best. This in turn could cause a disrespectful response from a customer or patron.

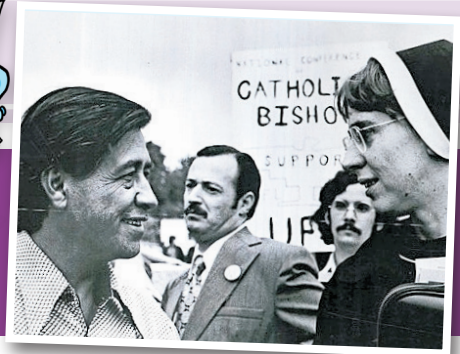
The issue of mutual respect in society is one that needs further attention and discussion. Our responsibility is to recognize that the dignity of all workers is something that will make society better for all.



TEACHER GUIDES

Instructional Resource Guides are available for each issue of the Tablet Jr. You can find the supplemental lessons on CTNBQ.ORG/TABLETJR

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Diocesan History Corner

by Joseph Coen

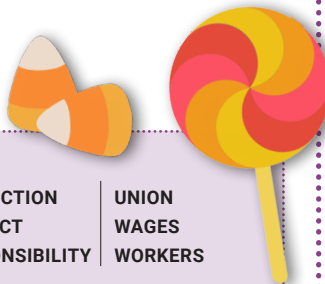
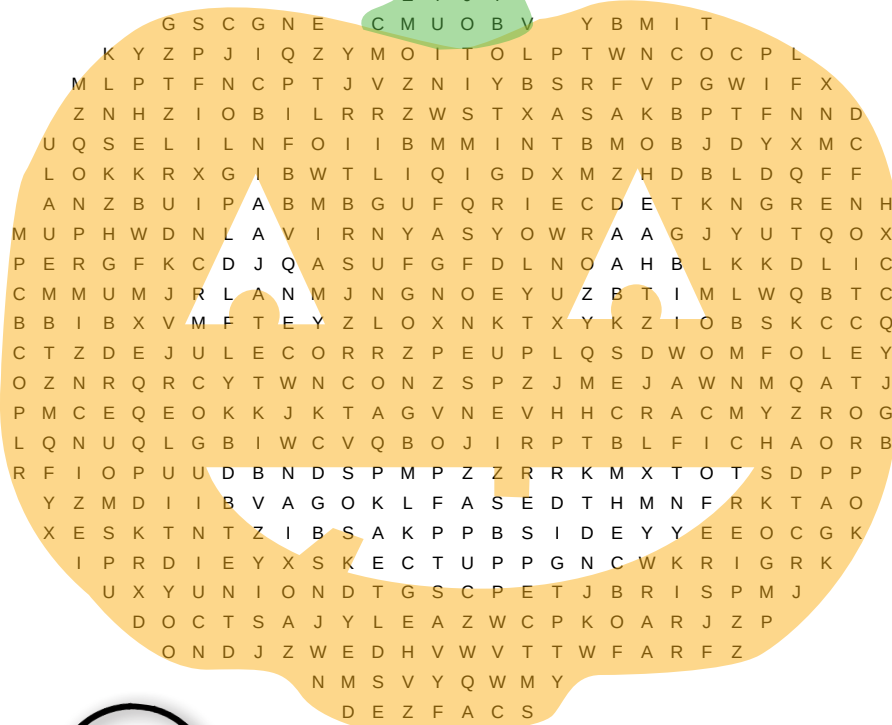
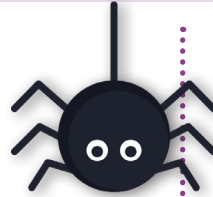
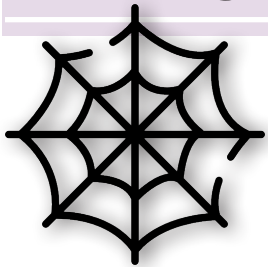
Dignity of Workers

César Chávez was a Mexican American labor leader and civil rights activist. He was born in Yuma, Arizona where he was raised in an extended family with strong Catholic faith. After financial difficulties during the Great Depression his family became farm workers in California. His schooling ended after Junior High School when he became a full-time agricultural worker. After serving in the US Navy during World War II, he returned to farm work. In the early 1950's he became friends with a Father Donald McDonnell, who loaned him books about St. Francis of Assisi and Mahatma Gandhi, from which he picked up the concept of non-violent action.

He became involved in helping organize farm workers to seek better wages and working conditions. In 1962 he founded the National Farmworkers Association with his long-time ally Dolores Huerta. By 1965 they had launched the Delano Grape strike to try to force the company to allow its workers to

join what later became the United Farm Workers Association. In 1969 the American Catholic Bishops created an Ad Hoc Committee on Farm Labor which traveled to California and helped work out a settlement. When a new struggle began with California lettuce growers soon after, the Catholic Church drew on its own long history of social teaching to give support to Chávez and the UFWA. Chávez himself said that the intervention of the Bishops Committee was "the single most important thing that helped." Although his work was often controversial, his efforts were clearly inspired by his Catholic Faith. UFWA events often included Mass, pilgrimages and fasting. His work and the collaboration of the American Catholic Bishops, and the support of Catholic numerous clergy, religious and laypeople drew attention to the dignity of farm workers and immigrant workers.

Joseph Coen, C.A., is the archivist of the Diocese of Brooklyn.



FIND THE WORDS

COMMITMENT	EMPLOYEE	LABOR	PROTECTION	UNION
CONSIDERATION	EQUITY	MEMBER	RESPECT	WAGES
DIGNITY	FAIR	MIGRANT	RESPONSIBILITY	WORKERS

Fun Activities for You from Sadlier www.sadlier.com



does the verse apply to your visits? How can you treat the workers at these places with dignity and respect? Reflect on your actions and talk about it with your family. Did you do anything different when you were out with friends? How did those who served you respond to your respectful treatment? What suggestions does your family want to add?

In October, we celebrated the feast day of St. John Paul II. Read how he stood up for peace and justice throughout his life. Complete one of the activities through the link below.

Dignity of Workers

Part of your Catholic faith is learning to live out your faith to the world. Your guidelines are called Catholic Social Teachings, a foundation for life that is rooted in Scripture.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus and living your life with love, peace, and justice can seem overwhelming. By focusing on one of the Catholic Social Teachings at a time, you will live more like

Jesus each day.

Think about the last time you went to a fast-food restaurant.

Did you clear your table or leave everything for the worker to clean up? If you accidentally dropped paper on the floor – did you pick it up or leave for the worker to clean up after you? Perhaps you and your friends will be going to a fast-food restaurant, a store, or a movie. Read Jeremiah 22:13. How

SEE DIRECTIONS ONLINE: www.religion.sadlierconnect.com/livesofthesaints > October, and find the story of this holy saint.