Fertile Question: How can I create my preferred future?

Core Content Area 2: Prepare

TOPIC 2.3: Optimising my chances

Depthing Understanding: Knowing how to live

In this lesson students will investigate what constitutes right living.

Teachers: Before You Start!

1. Review the Catholic Church teachings about the seven deadly sins and seven virtues.
2. If possible locate and preview the film Tuesdays With Morrie.

For students to investigate what constitutes right living, select from the following activities:

1. Christians believe that the works of the Holy Spirit are signs of God’s presence and action in the world. Receiving the sacrament of confirmation empowers Christians to take on the challenges of life and live life to the full. The gifts of the spirit as named in the Catholic Church are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, reverence and awe of God.
   a. Identify the presence of the gifts of the spirit in your life today.
      i. Divide the class in half and create two concentric circles with each member of the pair facing each other.
      ii. Students spend 15 seconds sharing with the person opposite, where they have seen the gifts in action in the world. Once you have discussed one of the gifts, the inner circle moves two places to their left to discuss the second gift with a new partner. Continue until all seven gifts have been discussed (eg the courage of protesters fighting for democracy in Burma, courage of volunteers and workers in times of flood and bushfires).
   b. View the short movie clip about everyday Christian living.
      i. Reflect on the question in the movie clip: Where do you go from here? How will your own gifts, including the gift of discernment and your own conscience, assist you to live an ethical life and one which will lead to a preferred future? Create a journal entry in your e-Portfolio with a short response to this question.

2. Explore the concept of living life as though each day was your last.
   a. View the film (or excerpts from it) Tuesdays with Morrie.
      i. Compare Morrie’s view of a happy life with Mitch’s view and answer the following questions. What evidence from Mitch’s life did Morrie use to challenge Mitch’s view? Do you think that Mitch had identified his preferred future before meeting Morrie? Why or why not? How might having a mentor assist you to achieve your preferred future?
      ii. Choose one of Morrie’s wisdom sayings and reflect on what you might change to take his advice.
         Examples include: “You can't substitute material things for love or for gentleness or for tenderness or for a sense of comradeship.”
         “Don't cling to things, because everything is impermanent.” “Forgive yourself before you die. Then forgive others.”
         “So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they’re chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”
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