



LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Basic:

God made each person, so every life is important and should be protect.

More - The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life, is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teachings call on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are important than thing, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

CST 101: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABRI2ZSs58E>

EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE Taken from the USCCB website.

Genesis 1:23-31 – God created man and woman in His image.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 – God loves the orphan, the widow, and the stranger.

Psalms 139:1-16 – God formed each of us and knows us intimately.

Proverbs 22:2 – The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor.

Luke 10: 25-37 – The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other and cared for his life.

John 4:1-42 – Jesus broke with societal and religious customs to honor the dignity of the Samaritan woman.

Romans 12:9-18 – Love one another, contribute to the needs of others, live peaceably with all.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you.

Galatians 3:27-28 – All Christians are one in Christ Jesus.

James 2:1-8 – Honor the poor.

1 John 3:1-2 – See what love the Father has for us, that we should be called Children of God.

1 John 4:7-12 – Let us love one another because love is from God.



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PRAYER SERVICE

SET UP

- Place Picture in Prayer Area
- Light a candle
- Have Bible open to Genesis 1:26-27

GATHER

Gather around your prepared prayer space. Take a minute to quite the noise around you and turn your focus towards God.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: Open My Eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.

I live within you. Rest now in me.

LISTEN

Now take time to listen to God speaking to you through Scripture.

Reader 1: A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion of the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
Male and female he created them."

The Word of the Lord,
ALL: Thanks be to God.

SHARE

Pick a couple questions to talk about for a few minutes. If you get stuck on a question, just move on to a different one.

- In whom is it easy to see God's image?
- Are there people who you struggle to believe are made in God's image? Why?
- How do we recognize God in others?
- In the reading God tells us several times that He created man in His image. Why do you think God repeatedly tell us that we are created in His image?

LISTEN

In light of the conversation you just had, read through the reading from Genesis again.

Reader 2: A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion of the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
Male and female he created them."

The Word of the Lord,
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RESPOND

Now that we have listened to God speaking to us, how are we going to respond to His message?

Find a forgotten toy, stuff animal, or object under your bed, in the bottom of the toy box, or somewhere. Place this forgotten toy in your prayer space, by your bed, or somewhere where you will see it daily.

Each time you see this object throughout the week, think of a person who is often forgotten. Then say a prayer for that person or think of a way you can help remind them that they are loved and created in the image of God.

SEND

Now that we have spent time in prayer with God, listening to His message and responding, we are sent. Challenged to go out and use what we have learned.

Leader:

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life,
bless us with the courage to defend all life
from conception to natural death.

Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples
from east to west, from north to south,
so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.