

THE IMMACULATA

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”



Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

“Far too many Catholics are not familiar with the basic content of Catholic social teaching. More fundamentally, many Catholics do not adequately understand that the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith. This poses a serious challenge for all Catholics, since it weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel. We need to do more to share the social mission and message of our Church.” -United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Over the next few weeks, we will learn more about the social teachings of our Church. They are integral to our participation in full membership in the community of the faithful. We begin with the teaching called “Life and Dignity of the Human Person.” We all accept the teaching that God created all of humankind in His image. The question is “Do we live our lives as if we believe it?”

Pope Benedict wrote, “Our moral responsibility depends on recognition that the human race is a single family.” The basic dignity that each person possesses comes from God; therefore, all forms of discrimination are always wrong. Catholic doctrine states that people take precedence over things and structures. Systems are meant to serve people. And people are meant to serve and care for one another. The issues of abortion, the death penalty, euthanasia and racism are denial of equal human dignity.

Fr. Bryan Massingale, theologian and scholar at Fordham University, reminds his students that “everyone they encounter has a sanctuary lamp burning in front of them, a reminder that this person bears the image of God. The sanctuary lamp signals that the worth of human persons is not something we decide to give to them. That is not within our power. It is already instilled by God.”

Let us ask ourselves:

1. What path can I follow allowing me to respect the life and dignity of every human individual?
2. How can I recognize and acknowledge the spirit of Christ on the face of others whatever their race, color, class, age, or abilities?
3. How can I commit to a life of protection for every human being through honoring their dignity?



Assassinated: Apr 4, 1968

Image within Public Domain: Yoichi Okamoto

Wisdom from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be you what ought to be until I am what I ought to be.”

-Address at Oberlin College June 1965



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WATCH



Would you like to learn more about Catholic Social

Teachings? This short video is the first in a series on CST. **The Life & Dignity of the Human Person** affirms the opportunity to be what God intended each of us to be.

[Watch now...](#)

REFLECT



Let us reflect on the words of Pope Francis reminding us

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, sick, old, unborn, poor are masterpieces of God’s creation”.

[Reflect now...](#)

PRAY



Our Church calls us to deeply consider why every life is

valuable. **Join in this prayer from our US Bishops reminding us of the sanctity of life at all stages.** Each of us is a child of God.

[Pray now...](#)