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"An Instant CFM Meeting"

## Every Life is Precious



### PREPARATION

- Ask each member to bring a baby or childhood picture to use during the prayer.
- Select a song to sing which emphasizes the uniqueness of each person, such as "I Have Loved You," by Michael Joncas, New Dawn Publishing, 1979, OCP Publications.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 139 and light a candle.
- Select a reader for the Psalm.

GATHER - in person or by virtual means

REPORT ON YOUR ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

### OPENING PRAYER

Leader: While we listen to the psalm, meditate on the thought that God made each of us a unique person--a person made in his image. We are loved for being who we are.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,

And are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,

And lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is so high that I cannot attain it.  
For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
You knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
That I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
When I was being made in secret,  
Intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
When none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them--they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end--I am still with you.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

#### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1. How do you consider yourself "wonderfully made?"
2. Reflecting on this scripture, how do we address free will?



#### SOCIAL INQUIRY

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. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching . . . We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it

threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

- *Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching*, USCC, Washington, DC, 1999.

"At the center of all Catholic social teaching are the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person. The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world; all of the Church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry."

- *The Challenge of Peace*, U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, USCCB, No. 15, 1993

### *Modern Day Apostle: Mother Teresa*

In a small village of Yugoslavia, Agnes Bojaxhiu was born in 1910 of a devout Catholic family. Her parents were good Christians who provided food and shelter to the homeless who stopped by their home. Agnes was an active parishioner, teaching religious classes to children and educating herself about missions around the world. She was called at age 18 to be a missionary and joined the Sisters of Loretto. She was sent to India to teach. She professed her final vows at 21 and took the name Teresa. She taught for many years until India began to suffer during the World War and was affected by a terrible famine. The people were starving and Calcutta was overflowing with the poor. Teresa could not continue to teach the children of the rich while the poor were dying at her door. She described her second calling: "God wanted me to be poor and to love Him in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor." She began her new ministry, which in time led to the creation of the Missionaries of Charity, by picking up the dying in the streets of Calcutta and bringing them to her home to heal or die with dignity, "one person at a time." In his book, *Mother Teresa: Angel of God*, Fr. Eugene Palumbo writes "Mother Teresa did just what Jesus did and taught us to do; she put the unconditional love of God and the unequivocal love of neighbor together."

- Resource: Palumbo, Fr. Eugene. *Mother Teresa: Angel of God*. Resurrection Press of Catholic Book Pub., Totowa, New Jersey, 2000.



### OBSERVE

1. Find examples of regard for human dignity in popular media and in your daily life.
2. Find examples of disregard for human dignity in popular media and in your daily life.
3. Recall a time when you felt devalued or valued as a result of treatment you received.

4. How does Mother Teresa's life exemplify concern for the dignity of each person?

## JUDGE

1. From your answers to Observe #1 and #2 what challenges do you see to respect for human dignity in our society?
2. According to the quotation from *The Challenge of Peace*, the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person are the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. Do you feel our society has this foundation? Explain your answer.
3. In your own personal lives, how do you live out this principle?

## ACT

1. Examine your strengths. Use one of them to help someone else.
2. Become acquainted with a neighbor or a colleague at work that you have never met.
3. Recognize three strengths of each family member. Acknowledge the strengths in a positive way.
4. Volunteer to help an organization that is concerned with human rights or pro-life issues.

## LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT MEETING

Decide on the date and location. Look ahead to the setting and Observe questions for the next meeting.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Form a prayer circle.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Ephesians (Eph. 2: 8-10)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Leader: Please mention a personal quality or talent for which you are grateful.

At end, leader closes the prayer with "Everything we are and have, we have received from you, O Lord. For these gifts may we be truly grateful. Amen"

