

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum
Office of Life, Peace and Justice

Teacher Resources Day One	
Title/Theme	Incomparable Worth of the Human Person
Grade/Subject	6 th – 12 th Religion and/or Science, ELA
Length of Unit/Timeframe	One day with optional follow-up activities
Overview	Day 1 of a 5 day Respect Life Curriculum for Respect Life Week Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2013
Day 1: All Disciplines	Each day of Respect Life Week, the curriculum will be taught in a different discipline. For the first day, every class is invited to discuss topics pertaining to Respect Life Week. See below and student handout for recommendations.
Essential Questions:	
<p>What does it mean to be human? What does the church teach about the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death?</p>	
<p><u>Catholic Identity Elements:</u></p> <p>National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools Standard 2 An excellent Catholic School adhering to mission provide a rigorous academic program for religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith, set within a total academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life. Benchmark 2.7 The theory and practice of the Church’s social teaching are essential elements of the curriculum.</p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church 2271 “Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law”: 2258 "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."</p> <p>Evangelium Vitae (EV), The Gospel of Life. John Paul II began his encyclical with these words, "The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message... to be preached with dauntless fidelity to the people of every age and culture" (EV 1).</p> <p>Vatican II Document Guadium et Spes (GS 27) The Council Fathers stated: "Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as</p>	

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum

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subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed. They poison human society, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace.

Summative Assessment:

Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:14-15, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:15-16

Choose one or more and create a poster/blog/tweet/PowerPoint/poem/song/bumper sticker/video, or tee shirt to communicate to others the **Dignity** of all human persons

Resources

Teacher background

- What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

(For more than a decade bishops, theologians, and other experts worked on a “compendium of all Catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals.” The fruit of their work was the catechism, an organized presentation of the essential teachings of the Catholic Church in regards to both faith and morals, “in the light of the Second Vatican Council and the whole of the church’s tradition.” (<http://www.uscatholic.org/church/2011/05/what-catechism-catholic-church>)

- What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about the dignity of the human person?

#1700 The dignity of the human person is rooted in his/her creation in the image and likeness of God. It is fulfilled in his/her vocation to divine beatitude. It is essential to a human being freely to direct him/herself to this fulfillment. By his/her deliberate actions, the human person does, or does not, conform to the good promised by God and attested by moral conscience. Human beings make their own contribution to their interior growth; they make their whole sentient and spiritual lives into means of this growth.

#356 Of all visible creatures only man is “able to know and love his creator.” He is “the only

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum

Office of Life, Peace and Justice

creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake,” and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life. It was for this end that he was created, and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity:

#357 Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons. And he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead.

#362 The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. The biblical account expresses this reality in symbolic LANGUAGE when it affirms, “then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Man, whole and entire, is therefore willed by God.”

#1738 Freedom is exercised in relationships between human beings. Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect. The right to the exercise of freedom, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person. This right must be recognized and protected by civil authority within the limits of the common good and public order.

What does the Church say about Human Dignity? (<https://educationforjustice.org>) Human dignity originates from God and is of God because we are made in God’s own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). Human life is sacred because the human person is the most central and clearest reflection of God among us. Human beings have transcendent worth and value that comes from God; this dignity is not based on any human quality, legal mandate, or individual merit or accomplishment. Human dignity is inalienable – that means it is an essential part of every human being and is an intrinsic quality that can never be separated from other essential aspects of the human person. Human beings are qualitatively different from any other living being in the world because they are capable of knowing and loving God, unlike any other creature. Belief in the dignity of the human person is the foundation of morality. The principle of human dignity is the foundation of all the Catholic social teaching principles.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Essential Vocabulary</p> <p>Human, Life, Dignity, Church Teaching, Catechism of the Catholic Church</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Instructional Activities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Identity <input type="checkbox"/> Science - English/language Arts</p>	
<p>For either Science or Religion Class (one hour): Preview beforehand, then choose for your particular group, one of the videos about LIFE in the womb**.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have posted the vocabulary for the lesson.• Have posted in room the Essential Questions which can be referred to for the entire Respect Life Week. <p>Before showing video, get input from students about the Essential Vocabulary and Essential Questions. What do they mean?</p> <p>After viewing the video, the students can do a Quick Write on what was viewed, their feelings/observations/questions.</p> <p>Short sharing after... post main ideas from discussion for class to view.</p> <p>Introduce or review (depending on grade level) the term: Church Teaching or even Magisterium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are the “Teachers of the Church? (Pope, Bishops)• What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church? (see teacher background information)• What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about the dignity of the human person? (see teacher background information) <p>After viewing the video, how can/do you fully accept, believe and embrace the teaching of the Catholic Church on the dignity of unborn human persons?</p> <p>Small group activity: Choose one of the following versus and make a connection between “church Teaching” and what you experienced viewing the video. Share out to the whole class. Genesis</p>	

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum
Office of Life, Peace and Justice

1:26-27, Psalm 139:14-15, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:15-16

Homework Activity (Optional)

Students can choose one

- Post (e.g. blog, tweet, Facebook, Instagram) an appropriate statement of their belief in the dignity of unborn human beings
- Create a bumper sticker to make the above statement
- Share the video viewed in class with a friend or family member and get their response
- Visit the Web-site <http://www.iamwholelife.com/>

Optional Follow-up Activities

1. Read *Horton hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss

Students create posters/blog/tweet/PowerPoint/poem/song to communicate the Pro-life Message, “A person’s a person, no matter how small”.

2. Students use the media to find examples of human beings NOT being treated with dignity (the homeless, late-term abortions, war, gangs, etc.)

3. ***I am Whole Life*** website has 3 projects that the class, individual student or entire school could do

Other Instructional Resources

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Language Arts: *Horton Hears a Who* Dr. Seuss

Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground. "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:14-15

I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew; my bones were not hidden from you, When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you...

Isaiah 49:15-16

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name; your walls are ever before me.

Quick Write Overview for teachers

http://nrhs.nred.org/www/nred_nrhs/site/hosting/Literacy%20Website/Literacy%20Strategy%20Templates/Quick_Write_description.pdf

Facebook mock-ups <http://techtoolsforschools.blogspot.com/2010/01/facebook-project-template.html>

Facebook template <http://www.teachonezone.com/teaching-with-technology/facebook-template-for-education/>

Links

On-line version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>

Benedict XVI *No one owns their own life. Everyone is called to safeguard and respect life from the*

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Respect Life Curriculum
Office of Life, Peace and Justice

time of conception to natural death.”

<http://www.romereports.com/palio/benedict-xvi-respect-life-from-conception-to-natural-death-english-1590.html#.Ua53hGQINpw>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death.* <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

<https://educationforjustice.org/free-files/HumanDignity09.pdf>

Horton Hears a Who movie

review <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2008/apr/08042110>

Prolife Curriculum Pre-k to 12th Knights for Life <http://www.cpfornlife.org/curriculum.htm>

Materials to start a Pro-life Club at school <http://generationsforlife.org/clubs/curriculum/>

Principals and Choices Professional Curriculum (awesome for high school)

<http://www.principlesandchoices.com/learn-more-about-principles-choices/>

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

Evangelical web-site <http://pastorsprolife.org/>

I am Whole Life from the moment of our beginning <http://www.iamwholelife.com/>
(Look under “Projects”. The **Until Abortion Ends** would be awesome follow up activity)

YouTube videos for lesson

** TEDtalks Alexandar Tsiaras Conception to Birth Visualized

(9m 38sec) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKyljukBE7o>

** Baby Growing mommy’s womb

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJlKegeJLh4&list=PLD43A8F1E3B8DE457> 3 min 43 sec

** Conception to birth like you have never seen before

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZxEa1qTjbU&list=PLD43A8F1E3B8DE457> 3 min 46 sec