

**“Being Jesus to Others Through the Internet & Social Media”**

Please complete both pages and return to your facilitator at your next Home Meeting

CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE IS BASED ON THE FIRST OF 7 SOCIAL JUSTICE THEMES. THIS THEME IS CALLED **“LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON.”**

*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 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.*

Often, it is easy to forget about the human on the receiving end of an internet or text message. We must always try to treat others, and ourselves, with dignity. Webster’s Dictionary defines dignity as 1 : the quality or state of being worthy, honored, or esteemed 2 a : high rank, office, or position 2 b : a legal title of nobility or honor

*If we are to treat others with dignity according to the dictionary definition above, how should we see other people? How should we treat them?*

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*Do you think it is actually possible to see and treat other people in this way? \_\_\_\_\_*

*Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*As Christians, we sometimes refer to seeing others “through the eyes of God” Do you think God sees you as being in high esteem and considers you worthy? \_\_\_\_\_ Make no mistake, He does! (the answer to the question is “yes!”)*

*As Christians, we seek to treat others, and ourselves, with human dignity. The Catholic Church actually calls us to do so. Being in relationship with Jesus transforms our way of seeing the world and other people. Jesus teaches us to be able to view others as the unique, precious creations of God that they are. By taking advantage of the tools the Church gives us, we learn how to live out that relationship with Jesus. We are also strengthened by the tools the church. We need to take advantage of what the Church provides to strengthen us because the world is constantly trying to convince us to live for our own immediate desires and ignore the sacredness of the human person. What do you think the “tools” that the Church offers us are?*

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There are lots of ways we can violate human dignity on the internet and social media. There are also lots of ways we can affirm human dignity through these vehicles. A good test of whether you should post that comment, send that text message, Instagram that photo, re-blog that post on Tumbler or Vine that video is whether it will affirm human dignity or violate it. That includes not only respecting others’ human dignity, but your own as well!

Here are some great sources on the internet that not only affirm human dignity but also celebrate our Catholic faith:

The pope's on twitter! @Pontifex

Questions about our faith? [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com) , [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com), [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org), [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)

Looking for fun or inspiring videos? [www.vcat.org](http://www.vcat.org), [www.godvine.com](http://www.godvine.com)

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Go to [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com). (please make sure your parent/s know you are going on the internet) If you look on the main page and scroll down, you will see several different short articles. Pick one article. Write the name and author of the article here \_\_\_\_\_

Using the space below, write a paragraph describing the article.

During the Super Sunday session you missed, we watched a YouTube video of a young girl (Amanda Todd) that was bullied online and in "real" life. In the video, she told her story and communicated that she felt completely alone with no hope of the bullying ending. The bullying and harassment caused her such emotional pain that she attempted suicide. Even though she did make a mistake online that left her vulnerable to bullies, **she did not in any way deserve the horrible treatment she received.** The Youtube video was a way for her to reach out and try to find a friend or someone that could help. In her video she expressed "I have nobody. I need someone." If Amanda had received an online message from Jesus, what do you think He would might have said? In the space below and on the back of this paper, write a message to Amanda as if you are Jesus.