

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

Please complete both pages and return to your facilitator at your January 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 of 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 actually see other people? How should we treat them?

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

Why or why not? _____

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 can see and treat others with human dignity. The Catholic Church actually calls us to do so. Being in relationship with Jesus and taking advantage of the tools the Church gives us to grow in and live out that relationship actually transforms us and strengthens us so that we can live out this call to treat all people with dignity.

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 Tumblr or Vine that video is whether it will affirm human dignity or violate it. That includes 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 , www.ewtn.com, www.catholic.org, www.wordonfire.org

Looking for fun or inspiring videos? www.vcat.org, www.godvine.com

Go to 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, write a message to Amanda as if you are Jesus.