

Journey of Faith



Choose Life Always

Terrence and Lisa overheard Tanya say she had a volleyball game after RCIA class that night. They wanted to go support Tanya because they knew she was nervous.

Terrence and Lisa stood on the sidelines and jumped and cheered. They screamed, "Go, Tanya!"

Tanya was grateful to have such good friends and that God brought them all together through their RCIA classes.



Life: The Greatest Gift

God gives us many gifts. Every day, as soon as we wake up, we can begin to count the gifts we receive from God.

List three gifts you received from God today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When God made the world, he created people in his own image and offers everyone eternal life. That makes human life very special!

Taking Care of God's Gift

When someone gives us a gift, we don't break it or destroy it. We take care of it. We enjoy it. We thank the person for it. God gave us the gift of life. We have to be responsible and take good care of it.

But we don't just take care of our own life. God also calls us to take care of others. When people's lives are in danger, or when people aren't cared for like they should be, we—and all God's people—have to help.



What are some things you can do to help others?

Abortion

The lives of some children are in danger even before they're born. When a pregnant woman chooses to go to a doctor who will take away her unborn baby's life, it's called **abortion**.

Not everyone is happy when they hear a new baby is coming. Some people get very angry. Some people get very scared. We are called to care both for the new baby and the baby's mother. This is why the Church works to help pregnant females who don't want to be mothers.



Does your parish have a prolife group? What do they do to help mothers and babies?

Euthanasia

Sometimes people want to end someone's life because that person is very old or very sick. A person may even want to end her or his own life because of age or illness and don't want to suffer. Ending a life because someone does not want to live with an illness or suffering is called **euthanasia**.

People who choose euthanasia often think they are making a good choice. They think they are too old or too sick to ever get better and they don't want to suffer any more. Or their families don't want to see them suffer.



But taking a life away early is never right or good. All humans have dignity, and as part of that dignity all people deserve the right to live life to a natural death. Only God knows best when a life is over. We have to trust that God is looking out for us and our family even when someone is hurting.

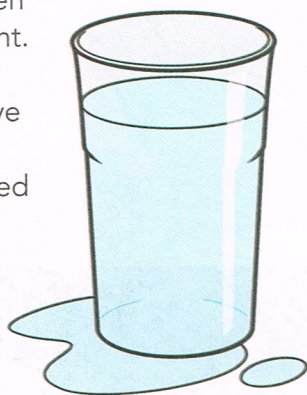
Capital Punishment

When someone we love is hurt by another person, we may want to get even or make things right. Some people think that it is an act of justice to punish people who have hurt or killed other people with **capital punishment**. "Capital" means the crime was so serious that the person who did it can be put to death. The Church teaches us that society has a right to defend itself, but if we can be safe without bloodshed, the Church tell us those are the ways we should pursue.

God tells us not to kill but to forgive each other—even many times (Matthew 18:21–22). The Church teaches that because God gives life, only God can take life away. It can be really hard to see good in someone who has done very bad things and hurt other people. The Church reminds us that every person is created in God’s image, even people who have done bad things. The Church reminds us that we have to be examples of loving and living like Jesus in the world.

Poverty and Hunger

Many people in the world don’t have enough to eat or drink. Some children go to bed hungry every night. It’s hard to love life and be thankful when you don’t have enough. Not being able to buy the basic things you need to live is called **poverty**. The Church reminds us that it is our responsibility to share what we have with people who need it.



List three things you have that you’re grateful for.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things you could give away to help someone else.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

War

It’s not easy for people to agree all the time. Even families argue over little things. When our differences get in the way, life is no longer peaceful and happy. When countries, governments, or other groups fight with each other, it could lead to war.



Many people are hurt and killed during war. Even people who didn’t want to go to war. Using weapons and violence is a terrible way to solve problems. It’s also a terrible way to treat God’s gift of human life. Sometimes war might be necessary, but only when it is the only way to stop people from being hurt or killed. The Church calls us to find other ways to try and solve conflicts first.

List three things you can do to keep peace in your family, school, or neighborhood.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



HOW CAN I HONOR LIFE?

For each action below, list two things you could do that help or honor life instead.

Abortion

1. _____

2. _____

Euthanasia

1. _____

2. _____

Capital Punishment

1. _____

2. _____

Poverty and Hunger

1. _____

2. _____

War

1. _____

2. _____

In Short

- Some modern issues threaten human life.
- Some actions are evil.
- How Catholics defend life



Journey of Faith for Children, Catechumenate, C15 (826344)

Imprimi Potest: Stephen T. Rehrauer, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists.

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Design and production: Wendy Barnes, Lorena Mitre Jimenez, John Krus, and Bill Townsend. Illustration: Jeff Albrecht.

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