

# You Are Precious

## RESPECT LIFE

*I came that they might have life, and have it to the full. – Jn 10:10*

Do you realize that you are precious? Yes, you. You may right now be squirming a little, considering your flaws, the qualities in others that you wish you had. Try a little experiment: Imagine yourself at your absolute worst. And contemplate this: At that very moment, God loves you as much as when you are at your very best. And he would still send His Son Jesus to die for you, even at your worst. You are that precious. Scripture tells us that “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3:16) You may be asking yourself, “Why? Why are we so precious?” And I suggest that you keep asking yourself that question; keep mulling it over. It’s not because of anything that you have done or achieved, or that you might do or achieve. It is not because of who your parents are. You are precious because God loves you. He willed you into existence. We are made in His image, the *only* creature who is. We are made *for* God, right now and for eternity.

It is because of our great human dignity – given to us by God – that we are to respect human life at every stage: from the tiniest developing embryo in the womb, to a small child, to an elderly or sick person. At every stage each of these human beings is loved, is necessary, is precious. For this reason, the church has always taught that any taking of an innocent human life is always and everywhere wrong. God is the Lord of Life. Let Him be the Lord of yours!

**Q. What are some challenges to the dignity of human life in our present society?**

**Q. How can I be a constant witness to the dignity of all human life? At school? In my family? At work? When I vote?**

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