



SUMMER LEARNING EXPERIENCE - 2017

For the Church, there is no distinction between defending human life and promoting the dignity of the human person.

Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in Veritate*. . . that "The Church forcefully maintains this link between life ethics and social ethics, fully aware that 'a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.'" (no. 15).

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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.

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

Assignment:

- On **September 29**, students will participate in a group discussion in homeroom led by members of the National Honor Society. The discussion will center on the theme of human dignity and the student's thoughts, reflections and reactions to the movie, book, artwork, music and current event stories they were exposed to as part of the Summer Learning Experience.
- Students will also need to be prepared to take a test on the book, Unbroken, before the small group discussions on **Friday, September 29**.

All school book:

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

All school movie:

The Express

All school artwork (review all artwork – click link to view artwork):

Jacob Lawrence, “Segregation and Discrimination”, *The Migration of the Negro*, 1940-1941.

Judith Dazzio, “Life Drains Slowly at Birkenau”

Ernie Barns – “My Miss America”

“Christ Falls a Second Time”, St. Patrick Cathedral

Dorothea Lange, “Migrant Mother”

All school music (Pick 3 songs – click links to listen to the songs or view the lyrics):

Dignity by Bob Dylan [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

Worth by Anthony Brown & group therapy [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

We Shall Overcome [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

Scars to Your Beautiful by Alessia Cara [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

Outcast by James Durbin [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

Man in the Mirror by Michael Jackson [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

The Mission by Janis Ian [[YouTube](#)] [[lyrics](#)]

Choose one current events article on the theme of Human Dignity taken from:

The New York Times

The Boston Globe

The Washington Post

The Wall Street Journal

The Hartford Courant

Time Magazine

Economist

QUESTIONS TO RELECT ON AND ANSWER:

- 1) What does human dignity mean to you?
- 2) What does human dignity mean to the people around you (family or friends)?
- 3) Based on 1) and 2), write down four important points about human dignity
- 4) For each of the artworks in this packet complete the following questions:
 - a. What would dignity mean for the person/people portrayed in the artworks?
 - b. How did the actions of others take away the human dignity of that person or those people?
- 5) Select three of the songs in this packet and for each of the three complete a one to two paragraphs reflection, answering the following question:
 - a. How does the song tackle the issue of dignity in terms of self-worth, inalienable rights, respect for others, oppression, and sacrifice?
- 6) Based on the news article you choose, what problems, even minor ones, do you find in terms of not treating people with respect and not valuing the dignity of others?
- 7) What actions, big or small, could you or others undertake to correct these problems?