



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2025/2026

First Step to Service Program

GRADES K-8

**Serving in Faith,
Walking in Love.**

October 2025:

**Honoring the Dignity
of All Life.**

"Respect Life"

LEARN

This October, during **Respect Life Month**, students are invited to reflect on the sacredness of every human life – from the unborn to the elderly, the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. Inspired by the Jubilee Year and Pope Francis' call to be **"Pilgrims of Hope,"** this session focuses on honoring the dignity of all people as children of God. Life is not just a gift, but it is also a responsibility! We are called to treat others with compassion, stand up for those who are vulnerable, and recognize the presence of Christ in every person we meet.

Reflect on our two chosen scripture verses. How can these relate to your life at home, in the classroom, or in your community?

We are taught that every person is made in the image of God and has inherent dignity no matter what they look like. What do you see in the following examples?

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

Matthew 25:40

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.

DISCUSS

Situation # 1

You notice that a new student is sitting alone today at lunchtime. They look nervous and are not speaking to anyone.

Situation # 2

Your class is going to visit a nearby nursing home. One of the residents uses a wheelchair, can't speak clearly, and seems very angry.

Situation # 3

You see a man standing on the corner of the street holding a cardboard sign that says "anything helps. God Bless you."

Discuss these questions as a class:

- Who do you see in each situation? Do you see yourself? Do you see a stranger? Do you see Jesus?
- How do you think this person feels in their situation? Happy, Sad, Scared, Lonely? What else?
- What do you think Jesus would do in each situation? WWJD?
- What can YOU do in each situation to show dignity and respect?



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