



**Catholic Charities**

Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2025/2026

First Step to Service Program

**GRADES 9-12**

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 in 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

One of your casual friends has seemed remote and distant lately. You want to approach them, but you're not sure what to say.

### Situation # 2

You were visiting a family member last night in the nursing home, when you noticed a newer resident lashing out at the staff.

### Situation # 3

After school, you stopped at McDonald's for a BIG MAC to hold you over until dinner. You noticed the man next to you counting out exact change for a single hamburger.

## Class Discussion Questions

### Perspective:

- When you look at each situation, who do you see? Do you see someone like you, someone completely different, or do you recognize the face of Christ?

### Empathy:

- Imagine what this person might be experiencing. Do you think they feel overlooked, anxious, hopeful, discouraged, or valued? What emotions stand out to you?

### Faith in Action:

- How might Jesus respond to this person's reality? What example does His life give us about how to act toward them?

### Personal Responsibility:

- What can you do—right now, as a student, a friend, and a member of your community—to treat this person with dignity and respect?



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