

Acting for Racial Justice/Human Life and Dignity

[Genesis 1:26-31](#) God created man and woman in his image.

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[Deuteronomy 10:17-19](#) God loves the orphan, the widow, and the stranger.

[Psalms 139:13-16](#) God formed each of us and knows us intimately.

[Proverbs 22:2](#) The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor.

[Luke 10:25-37](#) The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other and cared for his life.

[John 4:1-42](#) Jesus broke with societal and religious customs to honor the dignity of the Samaritan woman.

[Romans 12: 9-18](#) Love one another, contribute to the needs of others, live peaceably with all.

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#) You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you.

[Galatians 3:27-28](#) All Christians are one in Christ Jesus.

[James 2:1-8](#) Honor the poor.

[1 John 3: 1-2](#) See what love the Father has for us, that we should be called Children of God.

[1 John 4:7-12](#) Let us love one another because love is from God.

(Biblical passages are from The New American Bible (NAB))

The Catholic Church is present in society to assist humankind through life's many challenges: supporting expecting mothers during unexpected or difficult pregnancies, assisting parents through foster placements and adoptions, and helping the elderly or infirm with terminal illnesses and end-of-life care. MCC will support policies this legislative session that uplift and protect the dignity of human life, those marginalized by economic challenges. MCC will also encourage policies that care for vulnerable women and families, mitigate violence, seek greater racial understanding, and promote life-affirming palliative care. The Conference further supports:

- **Policies that recognize the value of every person's life**
- **Prohibiting or regulating research policies which violate the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of human life.**
- **Policies that seek to reduce violence in society, including the reduction of gun violence.**
- **Upholding the constitutional ban on the death penalty and the statutory ban on assisted suicide.**
- **Policies that expand and improve end-of-life care through a person's natural death.**
- **Policies that support the authentic nature of the human**
- **Policies that address racial injustice and promote racial harmony.**

From the [USCCB document *Open Wide our Hearts, 2018*](#) **Notes on Racism**

- "Racism can often be found in our hearts—in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and culture. As such, it can lead to thoughts and actions that we do not even see as racist, but nonetheless flow from the same prejudicial root. Consciously or subconsciously, this attitude of superiority can be seen in how certain groups of people are vilified, called criminals, or are perceived as being unable to contribute to society, even unworthy of its benefits."

- “...each of us should adopt the words of Pope Francis as our own: let no one ‘think that this invitation is not meant for him or her.’ All of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur. In that transformed reality, the headlines we see all too often today will become lessons from the past.”
- “Too many good and faithful Catholics remain unaware of the connection between institutional racism and the continued erosion of the sanctity of life. We are not finished with the work. The evil of racism festers in part because, as a nation, there has been very limited formal acknowledgement of the harm done to so many, no moment of atonement, no national process of reconciliation and, all too often a neglect of our history.”
- “As Christians, we are called to listen and know the stories of our brothers and sisters.”
- “To work at ending racism, we need to engage the world and encounter others—to see, maybe for the first time, those who are on the peripheries of our own limited view. Knowing that the Lord has taken the divine initiative by loving us first, we can boldly go forward, reaching out to others. We must invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out. We must work to form relationships with those we might regularly try to avoid. This demands that we go beyond ourselves, opening our minds and hearts to value and respect the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism.”
- “Here we call on our religious education programs, Catholic schools, and Catholic publishing companies to develop curricula relating to racism and reconciliation. Our campus ministers should plan young adult reflections and discussions that strive to build pathways toward racial equality and healing.”

Additional Notes *The basis for all that the Church believes about the moral dimensions of economic life is its vision of the transcendent worth -- the sacredness -- of human beings. The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured.*

Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are. (St. John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Year [Centesimus annus]*, no. 11)

Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. *Jn 1:14*), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (cf. *Mk 16:15*). (St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life [Evangelium vitae]*, no. 3)

This teaching rests on one basic principle: individual human beings are the foundation, the cause and the end of every social institution. That is necessarily so, for men are by nature social beings. (St. John XXIII, *Mother and Teacher [Mater et Magistra]*, no. 219)

Catholic Advocacy Issues, MCC Restorative Justice | Michigan Catholic Conference (micatholic.org) accessed 9-30-22

[Centesimus Annus \(1 May 1991\) | John Paul II \(vatican.va\)](#) accessed 9-30-22

[Mater et Magistra \(May 15, 1961\) | John XXIII \(vatican.va\)](#) accessed 9-30-22

[Evangelium Vitae \(25 March 1995\) | John Paul II \(vatican.va\)](#) accessed 9-30-22

[Daily Bible Readings, Audio and Video Every Morning | USCCB](#) accessed 9-30-22

[open-wide-our-hearts_0.pdf \(usccb.org\)](#) accessed 9-30-22

[Life and Dignity of the Human Person | USCCB](#) accessed 9-30-22