

## Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation

All life is a gift and each of us is created in the image of God and thus we have a special place in His creation.

Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, Who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end; no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being. (*Donum Vitae* 5)

Some argue that certain human lives are better than others depending on the value and worth to society. The Catholic Church proclaims that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief guides all of the principles of our social teaching.

Catholic teaching holds that every person has innate dignity and “these human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took their origin.” (CCC #2273)

Along with these major principles Catholic teaching recognizes the importance of the principle of truth telling.

As Catholics we are also called to uphold the *common good*, simply stated, “all for one, one for all”. We must be mindful that one’s good is intimately related to the common good. “It is imperative that no one would indulge in a merely individualistic morality. The best way to fulfill one’s obligations of justice and love is to contribute to the common good according to one’s means and the needs of others....” (Vatican Council “Joy and Hope” 30).

(Excerpt from Maria Giannotti in **Ethically Speaking**, Newsletter of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute at Assumption University; Winter 2016)

*As we examine what is happening in our world and beyond, but mostly in our own neighbourhoods, what are we being and doing to promote the dignity and respect of one another, especially of our most vulnerable neighbours?*



I would like very much to read/hear your thoughts and ideas. You are welcome to e-mail me at [shalomtmm@yahoo.ca](mailto:shalomtmm@yahoo.ca)  
Thank you,

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