

Dignity at Every Age

Wednesday of Respect Life Week – January 2022

Helping Others

Grades 7-9

Goal: Students will explore sickness and illness through the lens of the dignity of every person at every stage. Through stories and activities, students will realize that the elderly and the sick not only have love to give, but also, need to receive love.

Materials: The Sacred Gift of the Person at the End of Life ([video link](#))
Treating the Whole Person: An Integrated Approach to the End of Life ([video link](#))

Watch: These videos show that life is a gift and can never be considered a burden. Because we are a sacred gift of God, at every stage of our lives, we are beautiful and worthy of His love. The videos teach that every life at every stage deserves to be treated with love, dignity, and respect.

The Sacred Gift of the Person at the End of Life ([video link](#))
Treating the Whole Person: An Integrated Approach to the End of Life ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

Think of a time when you have visited an elderly person. What did you do with them? How was this interaction different from hanging out with your friends?

What are some ways you can care for the sick and elderly?

Why is it important to care for the sick and elderly?

What are things you have learned from the elderly?

Activity: Through this activity, students learn to recognize that the elderly and infirmed have much love and life to give to those around them. In listening to the words of their grandparents, students learn to recognize the dignity of every person.

Have the students prepare an interview with a grandparent or another elderly person in their life. Have them about their grandparents' childhood, family, and the lessons they have learned in their journey through life. This gives students the opportunity to delight in the elderly in their life and come to recognize the dignity present in every person, regardless of ability. Share highlights from the interviews at a later class.

Prayer:

A Blessing for the Sick

Jesus, when you were on earth, people brought the sick to you
and you healed them all.

Today we ask you to bless all those in sickness, in weakness and in pain.

For those who are helpless: Bless your people, O Lord.

For those who must face life under some disability;
those whose weakness means that they must always be cared for:
Bless your people, O Lord.

For those suffering from debilitating or terminal illness and for their caregivers:
Bless your people, O Lord.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website.