

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD



When folks are asked what they would save if their house were on fire the overwhelming response is “photographs.” Furniture is replaceable, so are your clothes; you can’t replace your memories.

What if your house was in flames and the question became who you would save? You have three children, smoke has completely filled the house, the temperature is becoming unbearable; you have time to only save one.

What an awful, horrible, terrible thought! You would mourn the children that you could not have saved every morning and every evening until the last day of your life. No one could begrudge you for your choice; how could they? Your life is your children and it’s not as if you chose your photo albums.

The foundational principle of Catholic social teaching is life and dignity of the human person. We respect and protect all life--the unborn child, the elderly man, alone and dying, the child who falls asleep at night, hungry because her family had no food for dinner, the child saved from abortion and now trying to survive the foster care system, the black woman unhired and ignored because of her gender, because of the color of her skin. Every one of these persons—the unborn, the elderly, the hungry, the victim of societal discrimination—is a child of God. God loves his children equally. We children of God are called to be Christ-like, which includes loving all God’s children, our brothers and sisters, equally.

Look around us as our world is in flames with:

- 55 million unborn babies aborted
- with a rapidly increasing wealth for the very wealthy and rapidly increasing poverty rates for millions more
- with a climate climbing past levels that are considered safe and quickly past the point where we can return to safety and good health
- with 12 million undocumented immigrants forced to live in the nether twilight of society

And we can save only one child. Which one do you choose? As Catholics we most certainly love them all and love them equally...RIGHT? What an awful, horrible, terrible choice.

Who among us could begrudge and harbor ill will towards another for the child he or she chose to save? It is indeed our responsibility to save the people we can before we save our photographs and jewelry. God gave us free will and God gave us consciences that we are expected to develop, with the help of the Holy Spirit, by listening to the voice of God and moving towards the light and away from the darkness. When our well-formed conscience guides us to work towards saving one of God’s children over another (while mourning those that weren’t saved), can we really argue with that?

Can we really say that some children of God are more important than other children of God?

Of course not, we are all children of God, equally.



Office of Life, Justice, and Peace