

Human Dignity

The Christian is called to offer contemporary culture a deep sense of the dignity of the human person, beyond possessions or health or whatever else the individual can make of himself or bring to society. It is for this reason that Christians refuse—and will always refuse—to be any part of the dirty work of death, no matter what stage of life is threatened, no matter what condition life endures, and least of all at the most fragile moments of life—the first and the last—where human dignity demands protection that is both watchful and full of affection. As I said just a few moments ago, the dignity of man and woman derives from being children of God, which, in Jesus, has been confirmed once and for all, and forever. This condition is the basis of that radical equality, indeed fraternity, that rejects every kind of discrimination. This fraternal dimension, which, sadly, is the promise that modernity has not kept, shows that human life reaches its fullness only in relationships, which rescue life from abstract conceptualization and deliver it safely to its full flourishing—within the human family. It is, however, unfortunately true that our actions are not always consistent with this fundamental and non-returnable gift of God. The confession of our shortcomings, which expresses our awareness that we do not always live up to -8- our filial and fraternal responsibility, is part of our acknowledgment of God's gift. When the realization of our failings leads us to the path of repentance and pardon, our concomitant realization of possessing a dignity that no circumstance or conduct can eliminate becomes even stronger.

SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN DIGNITY AT ALL STAGE OF LIFE - 3rd December 2018 -
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