

**FOOTPRINTS FOR** *life*



**DIGNITY | COMPASSION | TRUTH**

**EACH ONE OF US IS CREATED IN  
THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF  
GOD AS HIS MASTERPIECE AND  
NEED TO BE TREATED WITH  
RESPECT.  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.**

**BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I  
KNEW YOU, BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I  
DEDICATED YOU, A PROPHET TO THE  
NATIONS I APPOINTED YOU.”**

**JEREMIAH 1:5**

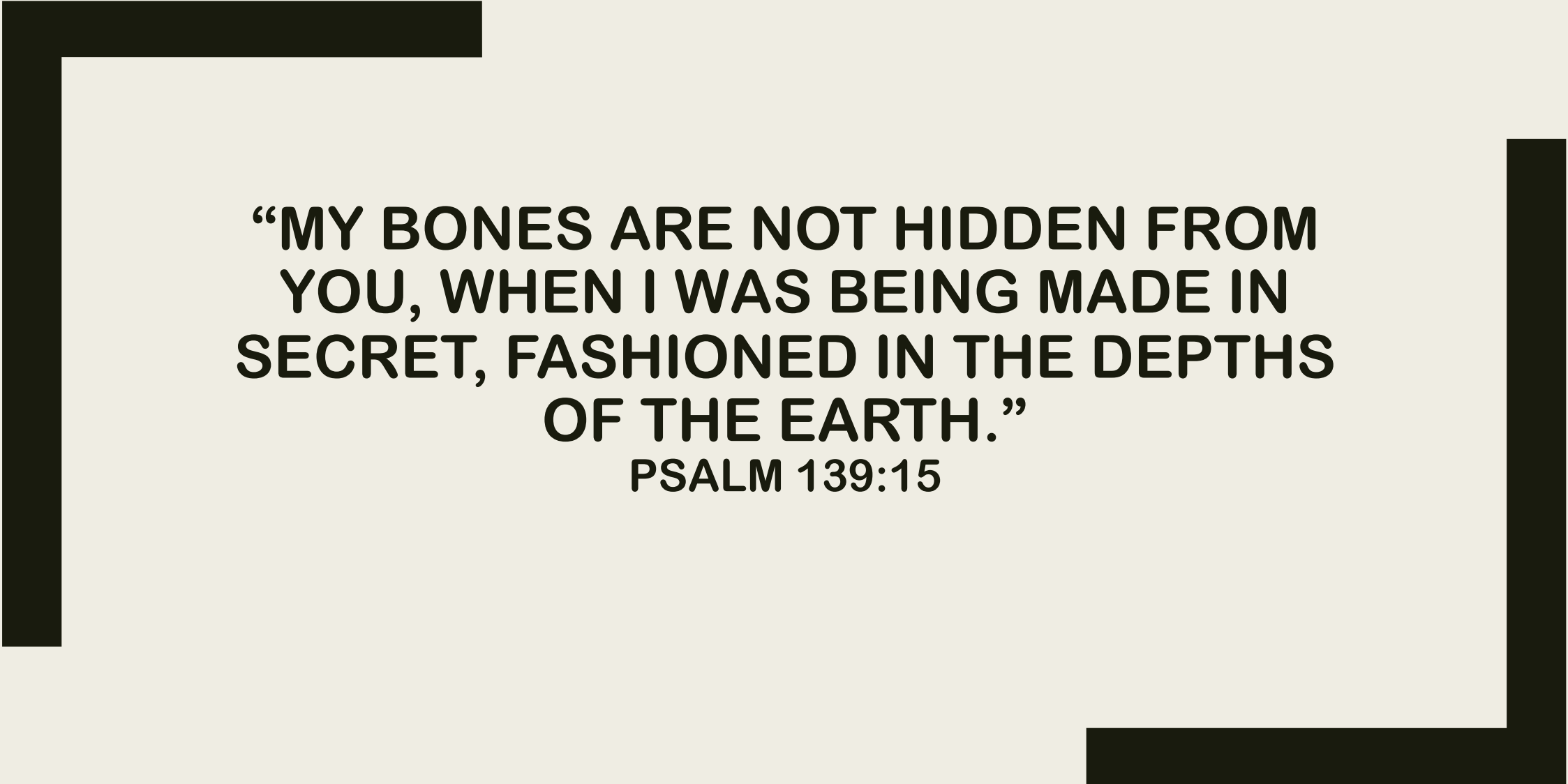
**“THIS IS HOW ALL WILL KNOW THAT  
YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE  
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.”**

**JOHN 13:35**

We are all unique and God has an individual plan for each of us. Each of us is created exactly the way God intended. God purposely created us different from others. Through our humanity, He gave each of us our own personality, gifts, and talents so that we can serve Him and others. He knows every detail of our lives and has GREAT plans for each us.

Bullying in any way is not the way of God. We cannot treat others differently because they appear different. Bullying through computers, any electronic device or social media is just as harmful as bullying someone in person. It can be worse because the harmful words and pictures can be easily shared with others.

**LIFE BEGINS AT  
CONCEPTION - THE  
MOMENT THAT GOD  
PLACES THE  
INFANT'S SOUL  
INSIDE HIS OR HER  
MOTHER**

A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned on the left and bottom sides of the page, framing the central text.

**“MY BONES ARE NOT HIDDEN FROM  
YOU, WHEN I WAS BEING MADE IN  
SECRET, FASHIONED IN THE DEPTHS  
OF THE EARTH.”**

**PSALM 139:15**

# Unborn Baby

- Have the students or a student look up the definition of “fetus” and share it with the class and discuss.
- Stages of Fetal Development (Fetal Development).

Creation – ALL inherited traits are determined –  
eye color, hair color, dimples, height, gifts, talents and so much more!  
With ultrasounds and research, science is proving that life begins at conception/creation.

- Day 22
  - 6 weeks
  - 7 Weeks
  - 8 Weeks
  - 9 Weeks
  - 10 Weeks
  - 11 Weeks
  - 12 Weeks
- The baby’s heart begins to beat with the baby’s own blood.
  - The baby’s brain waves can be detected.
  - The baby is kicking and swimming.
  - All of the baby’s organs are in place and the baby can begin to hear.
  - The baby has permanent, individual fingerprints.
  - The baby can “breathe” amniotic fluid and can hiccup.
  - All of the baby’s organs are functioning
  - The baby can suck his/her thumb and smile.
  - The baby can feel pain.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Abortion**

Abortions occurs when the mother chooses to end the life of her baby before he or she is born. This is not God's plan because she is taking the life of another person. There are many reasons that a mother may choose abortion. Some of these reasons may include fear, hopelessness, age, and doubt of ability to raise a child. Most of these women feel that abortion is their only choice. Our prayers and support for these women are very important.



**ADOPTION IS THE BEST CHOICE  
FOR AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY  
WHEN THE PARENTS CAN'T RAISE  
THE BABY THEMSELVES**

**ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH**



**“AND WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE CHILD  
SUCH AS THIS IN MY  
NAME RECEIVES ME.”  
MATTHEW 18:5**

Some mothers may have feelings of fear when they learn they are pregnant with child. Some moms are scared to raise a baby for different reasons. They may think that they won't be able to care for their child. They may feel that they don't have the finances to provide for their baby. We need to pray that these women can find hope in God and His plan for them and their unborn baby.

When a mom is pregnant with her baby, we know that God planned that baby and has a purpose for him or her. Adoption is the best choice for the parents and their unborn baby when the parents decide not to raise the baby themselves. With adoption, a woman gives her baby life and finds a loving home for her child. A mother's love is very unselfish, and women have a natural instinct to care for and protect their babies. It is not easy to place a child for adoption, but it brings peace to know that adoptive parents will love and care for their child. Adoption brings great joy to couples who can't bear children on their own. To be able to adopt a child is a HUGE gift to many families. For newborn babies in the USA, the wait to adopt varies, but could take years!

Jesus was adopted by  
his father on earth, St. Joseph.

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Adoption and Abortion

God created life for His purpose and by placing a child for adoption, the mother is honoring God and the gift of her child. A mother's love is very unselfish by nature. By giving her baby to an adoptive family, she is making the choice she believes is best for her child. This will bring great joy to an adoptive family. In the end, the mother will also find joy and peace in herself. When a mother chooses abortion, there is no joy. This mother will experience shame, guilt and fear. If the mother chooses abortion, she will never forget that day. Most women regret their abortions and need psychological help during their lifetime for this choice. Women who have chosen abortion can find forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the grace and mercy of Jesus. They may also find hope and healing through programs like Project Rachel. We must also help them in forgiving themselves by praying for these women.

**THE ANNUNCIATION – “BEHOLD, I AM THE  
HANDMAID OF THE LORD.” LUKE 1:38**

**CHRISTMAS IS THE PERFECT  
“PRO-LIFE STORY!”**

**MARY SAID “YES!” TO LIFE – THIS IS WHY WE  
HAVE CHRISTMAS.  
WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS.**

**“CERTAINLY SONS ARE A  
GIFT FROM THE LORD, THE  
FRUIT OF THE WOMB.”**

**PSALM 127:3**



The Nativity story from Luke 1:26-38:

“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, ‘Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

But Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?’ And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.’ Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.”

**WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE A  
VOICE FOR THOSE WHO  
CAN'T BE A VOICE FOR  
THEMSELVES – THE UNBORN,  
THE ELDERLY, THOSE WHO  
ARE HOMELESS, DISABLED,  
OR INCARCERATED.**

**“FOR YOU WILL BE HIS  
WITNESS BEFORE ALL TO  
WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN  
AND HEARD.”**

**ACTS 22:15**

*“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”*

Matthew 19:14

-Why did Jesus say let the children come and do not stop them?

The Preamble of the Declaration of Independence states:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”*

- What are the 3 unalienable rights that are mentioned in the Preamble?
- What does each of these mean? Life? Liberty? Pursuit of Happiness?

We have a significant role in the legislative process. It is extremely important that we all become active in promoting and encouraging a God-pleasing decision on a bill by contacting our congressmen. There is no other issue that is more concerning, than the protection of all life from conception until natural death, especially the most vulnerable – the unborn.

## 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Abortion – ends the life of the baby. This can be performed the entire 9 months of the pregnancy in certain states. However, the laws are changing rapidly to protect the lives of the babies in their mother's wombs. It is important that we continue to pray for the end to abortion.  
-Does God approve of abortion at any time? Why or why not?

Discuss these Bible Verses:

- Deuteronomy 30:19
- Exodus 20:13
- Jeremiah 1:5

If the mother's life is in danger, the doctor needs to use all measures to save both lives.



6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade

# *Roe v. Wade*

- The *Roe v. Wade* decision was made on January 22, 1973. This decision made abortion legal. The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22 as a special day of prayer and penance in reparation for the abortions that have resulted from the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court Decision.
- On June 24, 2022, thanks to the prayers and works of many people, *Roe v. Wade* was Overturned! This day has been long-awaited for almost 50 years! This decision returned the legal decision of abortion to the people and their state legislators. Abortion is still legal in many places. It is important that we continue to pray for protection of unborn children and their parents.

**OUR BODIES ARE  
TEMPLES OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AND NEED TO BE  
RESPECTED BY  
OURSELVES AND  
OTHERS.**

**“DO YOUR NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS A  
TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH YOU,  
WHOM YOU HAVE FROM GOD, AND THAT YOU  
ARE NOT YOUR OWN? FOR YOU HAVE BEEN  
PURCHASED AT A PRICE. THEREFORE,  
GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY.”**

**1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20**


God created each of us in His image and likeness. He gave each of us certain gifts and talents to use for His purpose. We need to believe in ourselves and know that God is always with us to help us make good choices. Many times, we don't make the right choices because we lack belief in ourselves. It is important that we realize the value of our lives and those of our friends. God created us to eventually be with Him in heaven. He lives in each of us, and we are called to show respect to ourselves. God created each one of us for His purpose – to serve Him and others. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we need to always pray to make the best choice in each situation.

## 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Additional Discussion

Every single person is created in the image of God and is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We need to honor God by dressing respectfully and respecting members of the opposite gender. We are called to help others get to heaven, and we can do this by respecting them. God created you for a vocation – to be a wife, husband, single person, or in a consecrated state. He created us with a pure heart and soul so that we may fill that vocation responsibly. It is our responsibility to remain pure in our thoughts, words, and actions. It doesn't matter how many "Likes" we get in this world and on social media. What matters is how much "LOVE" we will receive from God, our future spouse and relationships by choosing chastity. The gift of ourselves is the greatest gift we can give our spouses.

**ALL LIVES, INCLUDING  
THE ELDERLY, AND  
PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES, ARE  
VALUABLE UNTIL  
NATURAL DEATH**



**“AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID  
FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS OF  
MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.”  
MATTHEW 25:40**

# Discussion of Persons Who Have Disabilities

-Discuss the differences we notice in others - even our family members (hair color and texture, eye color, age, personalities, strengths, weaknesses, etc.). Do these differences make us less valuable? Why or why not?

-Do you know someone with a disability? What is their disability? How have they overcome this disability?

-What are some other disabilities that people may have?

-Are these people less valuable?

-What are some of their strengths?

-Do we have the right to end a life because someone has a disability?



## Discussion of The Elderly

How do the elderly (grandparents) help us? Why are they valuable?

-What can we do to reach out to the elderly?

6th – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Additional Discussion

Discuss euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide and why these are not part of God's plan. Euthanasia is a method of killing someone without their consent and is a passive act. Physician-assisted suicide technically includes the consent of the one who will be put to death. Many people who are in favor of euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide use deceptive vocabulary. They may call it "assisted killing" or "dying with dignity."

**ALTHOUGH SOME  
PEOPLE ARE  
HOMELESS, OR  
INCARCERATED,  
THEY ARE STILL  
VALUED AND  
RESPECTED.**

**“  
DON'T DELAY GIVING TO THOSE  
IN NEED.”  
SIRACH 4:1-10**

## Discussion of Those Who are Homeless

Everything belongs to God. We need to share our gifts. There are many poor in the world. People are homeless for many different reasons, and we will never know all the reasons. The most important thing we can do for them is to pray for them. Many of these people don't have anyone praying for them.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Discussion of Those Who are Incarcerated

With our birth came free will. Each of us was born with the ability to make choices in life. All of us have made and will continue to make poor choices at some point in our life. Unfortunately, some people have made very poor choices in life that have broken law and are now in prison. Some of those who are incarcerated will spend the rest of their lives in prison. Although these people have made poor choices and are now in prison, they are still valuable children of God. Many of these people have no one to pray for them. God calls each one of us to not only pray for our family and friends, but also for those we do not know. Some of them have made some really poor choices, but we are not to judge others. Because of God's Resurrection, the sins of all, including those who are incarcerated, can be forgiven. If God forgives, will you? Only God knows what is in their hearts and only He can judge them.

# **HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER**

**MARY AND JOSEPH WERE  
UNSURE AND AFRAID, BUT  
MARY AND JOSEPH BOTH  
SAID "YES" TO GOD AND  
WERE PRO-LIFE**

**“HONOR YOUR FATHER AND  
YOUR MOTHER, THAT YOU MAY  
HAVE A LONG LIFE IN THE LAND  
THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING  
YOU.”**

**EXODUS 20:12**



Joseph and Mary play an important role in the Respect Life Movement in the following ways:

-Mary said “Yes” to the angel Gabriel. She was frightened when he appeared to her at such a young age and told her that she would be the Mother of God. Mary had many questions and wasn’t sure what was happening at the time. However, Mary simply said, “Yes, let it be done to me according to Your word.”

-Joseph was also unsure about things. He didn’t fully understand what was happening or why it was happening. He also said “Yes!” He chose to take Mary as his wife to love, protect and provide for her and Jesus.

Joseph and Mary were not only Jesus’ parents, but His teachers.

-Saying yes when we have doubts and fears about something is very hard to do. With hope in God, we can say yes to things we have fear of in our lives. Just as Mary said yes to God, each of our mothers say yes to being our moms every day. Also, just as Joseph said yes to God, our fathers say yes to being our dads every day. They have made a commitment to love and protect you.

-Mothers and fathers are gifts to our families as they provide for our us and give us love and support. Let's pray all children, that they will know that they will always have God, the Father and Mary, our Mother in addition to our earthly parents.