**Catholic Social Teaching**

* **To explain what it means to be in the image of God**
* **To explain how we are made in the image of God**
* **To evaluate how being made in the Image of God affects the way we treat others**
* **To understand the Catholic Social Teaching on Human Dignity**

Valuing All Life

 The Catholic Social Teaching says that all human life is special and that the dignity of each person is the basis for a just society.

This belief is at the heart of all the Church’s teaching about how to live. Every person is precious, people are more important than material things, and all our rules, laws, organisations and practices in society, should exist only to improve the life and dignity of people, and should never threaten it.

**Copy the text from Genesis, think about what it means and answer the questions that follow.**

Genesis 1:27

***“God created man in the image of himself,***

***in the image of God he created him,***

***male and female he created them.”***

1. What is this verse from Genesis telling us?
2. What value do you think God gives to each of us?
3. What does this say about our own lives and our own dignity?
4. How does this call us to live?

**Copy this quote into your books, think about what it means and answer the questions.**

**“Human life is special. The dignity of each person is the basis for a just society.”**

The Oxford Dictionary defines dignity as **“The state or quality of being worthy of honour”.**

**Tasks:**

1. How do we show people honour and dignity?
2. In what ways are people sometimes not shown dignity? Think about people in different situations:
	1. People with disabilities;
	2. People from different countries;
	3. Elderly people;
	4. Unborn children;
	5. People suffering from mental health problems;
	6. Criminals and their families.
3. Is it ever alright for people to be treated as if they are not as good as others? Why? Why not?

**Voice from the Church**

***The Church says that we, as people, are willed by God; we are made in God’s image. Our dignity doesn’t come from the work we do but from the people we are.***

*Centesimus Annus, The Hundredth Year, John Paul II, 1991, #11*

**Tasks:**

***I am made in God’s image***

***Like Royalty***

***I am a sign of God to others***

***My job is to mirror God to the world***

1. What does the Church mean by ***“Our dignity doesn’t come from the work we do but from the people we are”***?

2. What does it mean to be ‘in the image of God’?

3. Read the poem and write your own about being made in the image of God.