

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter is about respecting and protecting human life at all stages because life is a gift from God.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 5:21–22** to find out what Jesus teaches us about respecting one another.

Catholics Believe

- All human life is sacred because it comes from God.
- The Fifth Commandment forbids anything that takes a human life.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2258, 2268–2269 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Gianna Molla, who was willing to sacrifice her life for that of her unborn daughter.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Respect for Life Respect for human life is foundational to Catholic teaching. Much discussion on this principle, both within the Church and in the public square, focuses on issues such as abortion and the death penalty. Children at this age might not yet be ready to confront these issues head on, due to their graphic nature, but respect for human life is also a broader principle that has implications in their everyday lives. Is there a child who is teased because he or she looks different? Are there times when children feel tempted to hit someone else out of anger? These questions are also relevant to respect for life.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How does your family acknowledge and celebrate that each person's life is a gift from God?

Family life is the perfect setting to celebrate each person's uniqueness. It is in the heart of family that we experience and appreciate that God creates each of us with imagination and love. As Catholics, we know that "God's creative action is present to every human life and is thus the source of its sacred value. . . . The Fifth Commandment calls us to foster the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of self and others" (*USCCA, p. 389*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to talk about how anger, teasing, and bullying relate to the Fifth Commandment.
- With your child, name ways we show respect for others and protect others and ourselves, including our bodies.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Gianna Molla, pray for us that we may be faithful to God's love and always choose the path of life and hope. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.