

Healing the Culture: Defining the Human Person

- Scripture
 - Jer 1:4-5
 - Ps 127:3
 - Ps 139:13-14
 - Gal 1:15
- Themes from these Scripture texts
 - Jer 1:4-5; Gal 1:15
 - God-given identity *before* birth
 - (i.e. at the moment of conception)
 - Jer 1:4-5; Gal 1:15
 - God has a plan of *everyone*
 - Our God-given purpose is totally unique; it is meant only for *us*
 - Ps 127:3; Ps 139:13-14
 - Beauty/dignity of *every* human life
 - As we prayed at Mass today, “every life is worth living”
- Discussion questions
 - What is (what *define*) a human *person*?
 - What is (what *defines*) human *life*?
 - Is there really any difference between human *person* and human *life*?
 - What factors should determine human *life*, human *personhood*?
 - Race?
 - Gender?
 - Age?
 - Economics?
 - Intelligence/IQ?
 - Physical appearance? (e.g. ten fingers and toes)
 - Ability to speak, move, think, or feel?
 - Religion?
 - Sexual orientation?
 - Location (e.g. inside the womb vs. outside the womb)
 - Ability to care for oneself?
 - What do we mean by “care”?
 - What level of personal “care” should determine personhood?
 - (i.e. Does someone have to be totally autonomous in order to be a person?)
 - Okay, now consider the *Imago Dei*. Remember that? What was that again?
 - Capacity for conscience, reason, self-awareness
 - Possession of free will
 - (Consider Spitzer)
 - (*Dred Scott* Supreme Court decision → *Roe v. Wade*)
 - (Spitzer’s definition of “person,” but only *after* the youth discussion begins to approach its own definition)
 - *** LEAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THIS DEFINITION ***