

But God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

OUR RESPONSE

When someone is facing great trials, we need to meet them where they are, walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ's love however he directs.

When a woman becomes pregnant, and her boyfriend threatens to leave if she continues the pregnancy, we need to lovingly walk with her. When family members or friends become seriously ill, we need to assure them that God still offers them something in this life, and they still have purpose. We need to consistently be with them every step of the way.

Sometimes our actions speak for themselves; other times, words are needed. Whatever the situation, Jesus knows

how to speak to each person's heart; we simply need to follow where he leads.

A CULTURE OF LIFE

This is how we answer our missionary call. This is how we build a culture of life, a culture that joyfully proclaims the truth of God's love, purpose, and plan for each person. Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts and includes a willingness to be instructed and a desire to be close to Jesus—the source of joy and love.

When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.

Let us go, therefore, and not be afraid. God is always with us.



1 John Paul II, Homily, 17th World Youth Day, Downsview Park, Toronto, July 28, 2002.
2 USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, *Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization*. Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Excerpt from "Homily of the Holy Father John Paul II" © 2002, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Models used for illustrative purposes only. Dad and baby via Twenty20/@itsjuliwilliams. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Icons: Entypo pictograms by Daniel Bruce – www.entypo.com. Used with permission. Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



People of Life | @usccbprolife | @ProjectRachel



View, download, or order the U.S. bishops' pro-life materials!
WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESPECTLIFE