

# In God's Image

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Creator Father, we give you thanks for making us as we are and who we are.

“You formed my inmost being;  
you knit me in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works!” **Psalm 139:13–14**

**All:** O God, you are more than our maker. You are our loving Father. Help us grow to be like you more and more each day. Amen.

## Scripture

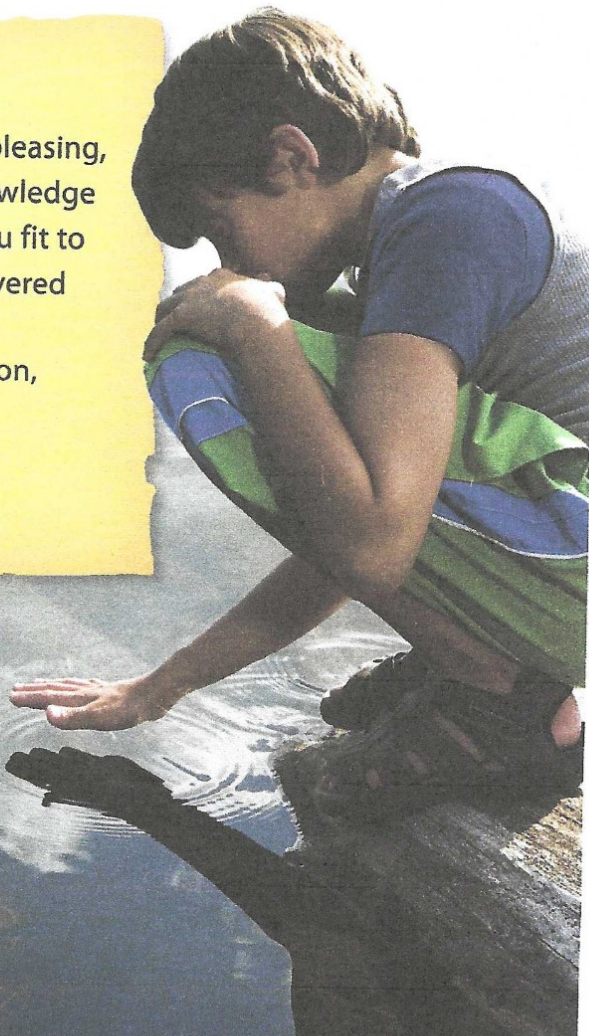
Live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God, . . . giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation. **Colossians 1:10, 12–15**

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## What Do You Wonder?

- How might sin hurt the way people relate to others?
- How does sin hurt the way people reflect God's image?



## Reflect God's Love

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

God has given you life. He has created you and all people to reflect his own image of love. God's image is meant to shine in each of us. As Catholics, we believe that all people have **human dignity** because they are created in God's image.

### Catholic Faith Words

**human dignity** the worth each person has because he or she is made in the image of God

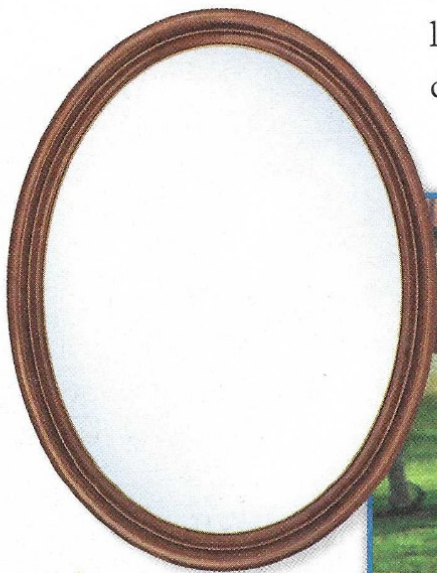
**soul** the spiritual part of a human that lives forever

### Scripture

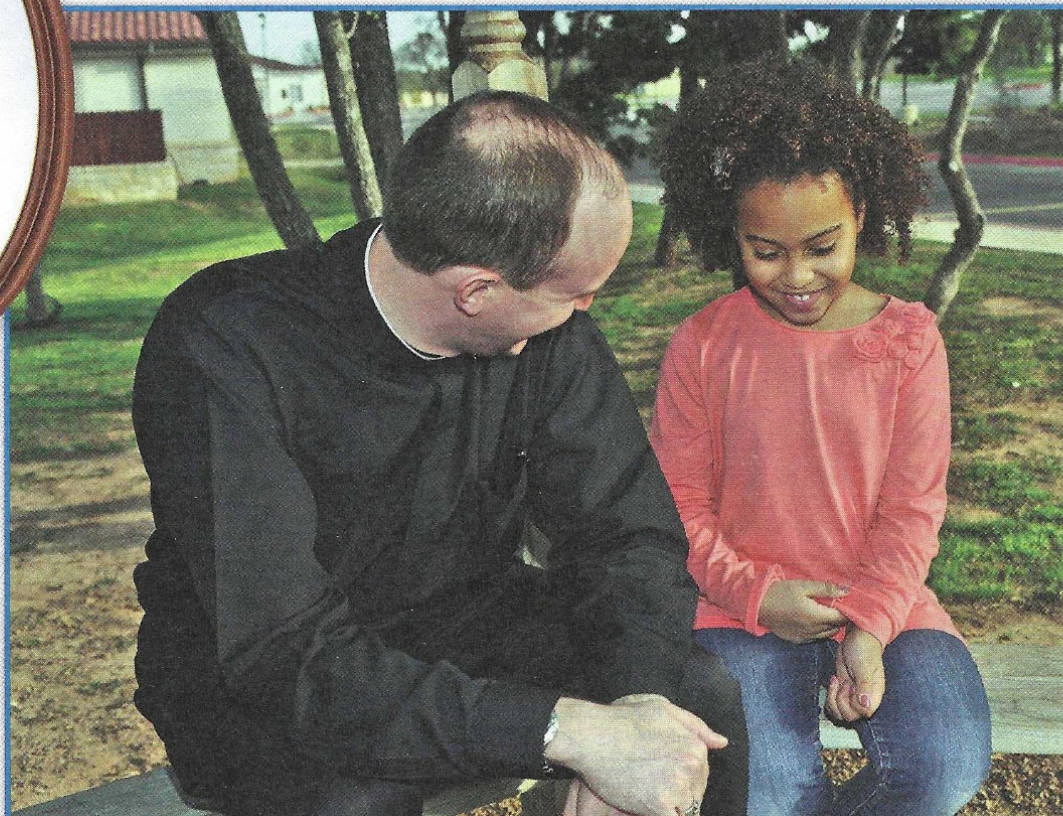
God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27**

God made you with a human body, and you have a **soul** that will live forever. God gave you the ability to think, to love, and to make choices. You can choose to do good every day and let God's image of love shine through.

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In the mirror, draw one way you are an image of love.



## Saint Marianne Cope

The story of Saint Marianne Cope shows how one person reflected God's love. She treated others, especially the poor and sick, with dignity and respect.

When she was a child, Barbara Cope knew that she wanted to become a religious sister. Because her family was poor, she worked in a factory to help support them. When her brothers and sisters were finally grown, she entered the religious community of the Sisters of Saint Francis.

In the convent, she was known as Sister Marianne. She taught and helped her Sisters establish hospitals which were special at that time because they treated people of any nationality, religion, or color. In the hospitals, she worked for patients' rights and promoted cleanliness.

The King and Queen of Hawaii invited the Sisters to work in hospitals there. Mother Marianne, as she was then called, took a group of Sisters to answer the call. Within a few years, they transformed a dirty hospital for lepers (people with a contagious skin disease) into a beautiful facility and made other improvements to help lepers and their families.

Over the years, Mother Marianne also helped found hospitals in New York.

➔ How did Mother Marianne's work honor the dignity of people?

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** In your own words, describe what the term *human dignity* means.

**Share** Explain your description to a partner.



## Created to Be with God

### What is a failure to love?

God created you to be united to him and to all people. Every time you act in a loving way, you deepen your connection to God and to the members of the Church, the Body of Christ. When you choose to treat someone badly, you hurt this person and the whole community of faith. You choose not to show love and respect.

**Sin** is always a failure to love. A sinful thought, word, or act also hurts your friendship with God and other people. Sin affects you, too, and keeps you from becoming the person God wants you to be. There are two kinds of personal sin—**mortal sin** and **venial sin**.

Personal Sin	
Venial Sins	Mortal Sins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sins that weaken your friendship with God and others, but do not destroy it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sins that cause a person's relationship with God to be broken</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• things that you do, such as disobeying, cheating, and lying. These are sins of commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• serious sins, such as murder</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bad habits that you develop, such as being lazy or dishonest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order for a sin to be mortal, (1) the act must be seriously wrong, (2) you must know that it is seriously wrong, and (3) you must freely choose to do it anyway.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A failure to act sometimes is a sin of omission; for example, to remain silent when someone tells a joke that makes fun of another person or group is a sin.</li> </ul>	

## Love and Respect

All people are equal. Every person has human dignity and is worthy of respect because he or she is made in God's image. Because he is the Son of God, Jesus is the perfect image of God. You are called to become more like Jesus and to reflect the love and care that he shows all people.

### Connect Your Faith

**Identify Sins** For each statement below, write an M in the blank if it describes a mortal sin. Write a V in the blank if it describes a venial sin.

- a serious sin
- lying or cheating
- destroys a person's relationship with God and others
- murder
- hurts a person's relationship with God and others
- being lazy or disobeying

### Catholic Faith Words

**sin** a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God. Sins hurt our relationship with God and other people.

**mortal sin** serious sin that causes a person's relationship with God to be broken

**venial sin** a sin that weakens a person's relationship with God but does not destroy it



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## Our Catholic Life

### Where do you see God's glory?

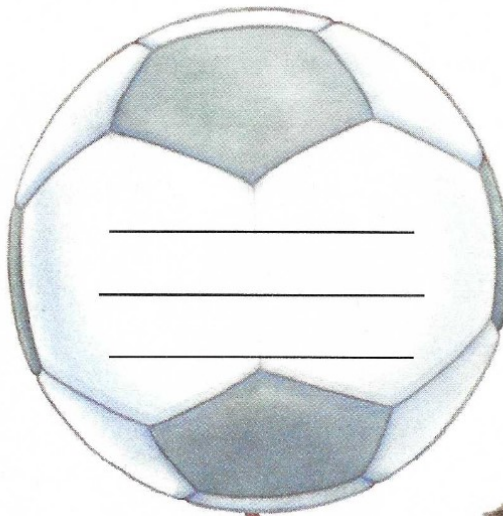
God shows you something of what he is like through his image in people and through the world he created. If you pay attention you will learn many things about him.



1. Inside the flower, write one way nature is a sign of God's glory.
2. Inside the soccer ball, write about a time when you have seen a reflection of God in another person.

### Nature Gives Glory to God

The loveliness of a flower or the brilliance of a sunset tells you something about God's power and goodness. Reflecting on his glory may bring about feelings of gratitude or peace. Take time to look closely at and appreciate nature.



### People Show the Glory of God

Think about people who have shown you love: your parents or guardians, a good friend, an understanding teacher, or a devoted grandparent. A baby may make you think of God's power and wonder. An older person may remind you of God's wisdom.



# People of Faith

**Saint Germaine Cousin, 1579–1601**

June 15

Saint Germaine Cousin reminds us that each of us is made in God's image and worthy of respect. She had a crippled hand and a deformed neck. After her mother died, her father remarried. Her stepmother made her sleep in a cupboard under the stairs. Germaine never complained. Instead, she prayed for her stepmother. Finally, her stepmother realized that Germaine was very holy and wanted her to live in the house. But Germaine stayed in her cupboard and was a model of prayer and holiness.



**Discuss:** What can you do to help someone who has a disability?



Learn more about Saint Germaine at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Create** a poster that explains how you can treat others with dignity and see the glory of God in everyone.

**DIGNITY**

 Let Us Pray

## Prayer for Dignity and Respect

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Reader 1:** God of life,

**All:** We pray for the dignity of life.

**Reader 2:** God of creation,

**All:** We pray for the dignity of life.

**Reader 3:** God, the source of all life,

**All:** We pray for the dignity of life.

**Reader 4:** God, the protector of humanity,

**All:** We pray for the dignity of life.

**Leader:** God, we give you praise and thanks for all creation. **Based on Psalm 139**

**All:** Amen.



Sing "O God, You Search Me"

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

When I walk or lie down you are before me:

Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that God created all people in his image and therefore each of us has human dignity and deserves respect.

### Scripture



Read **Colossians 1:10, 12–15** to find out how God created us to live.

### Catholics Believe

- Every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image.
- Each person has a soul that will live forever.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #355–357, 362–366 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

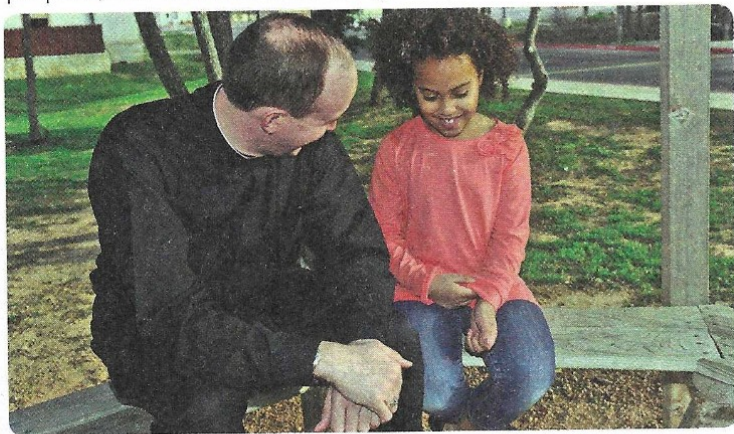
### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Germaine Cousin, who was born with some severe disabilities.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

### How They Understand Being Created in God's Image

Your child is probably now past those early childhood years in which he or she thought anything was possible. Some children this age are becoming painfully aware of their limitations and need to remember that they are valuable human beings by virtue of their creation in God's image. Knowing this, they can also begin to explore the idea that they were created for a purpose, and that God has a design for their lives.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Is it easier to show respect to a stranger or to someone in your own family?

It may be more difficult to show respect to people with whom we live because we see their flaws up close. All people deserve our respect because they are made in the image of God. As Catholics, we know that “to be made in the image of God includes specific qualities. Each of us is capable of self-knowledge and of entering into communion with other persons through self-giving. These qualities—and the shared heritage of our first parents—also form a basis for a bond of unity among all human beings” (*USCCA*, p. 67).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain why all people have dignity.
- Share a personal story about a time when you were not treated with dignity and how you felt.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



O God, may we always be respectful of all people, knowing we are all your children. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 4 Review

**A Work with Words** Circle True if the statement is true, and circle False if the statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. A bully can never reflect God's image.

True

False

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2. God is with everyone at all times in all places.

True

False

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3. You commit a mortal sin when you cheat on a spelling test.

True

False

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4. Mortal sin causes a person's relationship with God to be broken.

True

False

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5. Each person is unique and created by God.

True

False

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**B Check Understanding** Complete the following statements.

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the spiritual part of you that lives forever.

7. Human \_\_\_\_\_ is the worth each person has because he or she is made in God's image.

8. A \_\_\_\_\_ sin hurts your friendship with God.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ show the glory of God.

10. You are \_\_\_\_\_ to show God's love and care to others, as Jesus did.

