

CATHOLIC Q & A

What does human dignity mean?

Human dignity means that every human person is made in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and deserves love and respect. Each and every human being is unique and irreplaceable. For these reasons, every man, woman, and child has great dignity that can never be taken away. Respecting a person's dignity means treating them justly. It also means helping them to flourish as a human being.

Reproduced from USCCB "Frequently Asked Questions about the Defense of Marriage

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Lord, I come before you today with a humble heart. I ask that you open the hearts of every parishioner of Saint Ursula Parish. Give us all hearts on fire for You and help us to desire you more. May every one of us make Sunday Mass a priority, and put You first in our lives. Open our hearts and minds so we may know Your Holy Will for us. Give us the courage to faithfully follow you.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of the pastors who shepherd us, and bring Christ to us in the Sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in faith. Set their hearts on fire for love of Christ and all of Christ's people. Strengthen in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Thank you, Lord, for the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide for the spiritual needs of the parish. May they continue to lead people to Christ, and be an example of love and service to others in the parish. Help them to faithfully follow You and Your Holy Church. Give them strength in the face of temptation, adversity, and indifference.

Revive our parish, Lord, and use all the individuals prayed for today to bring about a renewed zeal. May we be Missionary Disciples in a world in desperate need of You. We ask all this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. — Amen.

SAINT OF THE DAY

Saint Athanasius
Saint of the Day for May 2



Athanasius led a tumultuous but dedicated life of service to the Church. He was the great champion of the faith against the widespread heresy of Arianism, the teaching by Arius that Jesus was not truly divine. The vigor of his writings earned him the title of doctor of the Church.

Born of a Christian family in Alexandria, Egypt, and given a classical education, Athanasius became secretary to Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, entered the priesthood and was eventually named bishop himself. His predecessor, Alexander, had been an outspoken critic of a new movement growing in the East—Arianism.

When Athanasius assumed his role as bishop of Alexandria, he continued the fight against Arianism. At first, it seemed that the battle would be easily won and that Arianism would be condemned. Such, however, did not prove to be the case. The Council of Tyre was called and for several reasons that are still unclear, the Emperor Constantine exiled Athanasius to northern Gaul. This was to be the first in a series of travels and exiles reminiscent of the life of Saint Paul.

After Constantine died, his son restored Athanasius as bishop. This lasted only a year, however, for he was deposed once again by a coalition of Arian bishops. Athanasius took his case to Rome, and Pope Julius I called a synod to review the case and other related matters.

Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ's divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace—reading, writing, and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism.

Among his ascetical writings, his Life of St. Anthony achieved astonishing popularity and contributed greatly to the establishment of monastic life throughout the Western Christian world.