

DEFENDING LIFE SERIES

Missionary Families of Christ

This course is part of the formation program in MFC. It is available to MFC members starting in their third year in MFC. It is an optional course for members but is a required course for household, unit, and chapter servants.

Rationale:

According to the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, “the first of the great challenges facing humanity today is that of the truth itself of the being who is man”. This crisis in identity and the crisis of “No God culture”, have led us to death in the understanding of the sacredness and inviolability of all human life. Thus, we find a myriad of problems concerning it: the rise of abortion, the contraceptive mentality, the radical attack of gender ideology, and the loss of the understanding of human dignity.

As a community, we are called to defend faith, family, and life and we will commit to embracing the pro-life advocacy and sharing it with others.

Goal:

Give MFC members practical teaching in promoting and defending faith, family, and life.

Topics:

1. Rediscovering the Beauty of Family and Life
2. The Sanctity of Marriage
3. Life is Sacred
4. The Gift of Life
5. Overpopulation is a Myth
6. Original Identity: On Homosexuality and Same-Sex Attraction

REDISCOVERING THE BEAUTY OF FAMILY AND LIFE

MFC Defending Life Series

At the end of the session, the participants should be able to:

1. Appreciate and be grateful for God's gift of family and life.
2. Understand that the devil is seeking to destroy God's creation through the culture of death.
3. Embrace the culture of life and commit to advocating it.

Methodology

00:00 – 00:05 Introduction of LCSC and Live Life Pillar; Play Live Life Primer Video
00:05 – 00:10 Heart Setting Activity: Put Your Finger Down Game
00:10 – 01:50 Talk Proper
01:50 – 01:55 Closing Prayer
01:55 – 02:00 Promotion of Live Life's Social Media Accounts

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

We all desire to experience happiness. As humans, we usually look for opportunities to be fulfilled in life. Most of the time we look for what society offers. We forget that the Lord offers us happiness more than what we expect to receive. Everything He designed and desired for us is for our long-lasting happiness. Let us rediscover that beautiful truth about God's gifts for us: family and life.

II. Beauty of Family and Life

a. Life

Activity: Ask the audience to Inhale and Exhale.

Processing: What does it mean for us to inhale and exhale? We are alive at this moment. Let us be grateful for the gift of life. Let us get to know more about the giver of this gift by understanding what life is about.

The gift of life is one of the greatest blessings we have. This is worthy of celebration. Today is a great affirmation that we are blessed, and we can be delighted if we only appreciate the blessings of the life given to us. Let us know deeply what the gift of life is about.

i. Life is a Gift

"The great gift of life is the first gift we have received."¹

Life is an undeserved gift from God. He made us in His image and likeness. He allows us to be His children and wants to give us His kingdom. We are the highest

¹ [General Audience of 18 March 2015: The family - 8. The children \(I\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

form of God's creation. We are unique and unrepeatable. God designed us beautifully and we are precious in His own eyes. God specifically chose to make each one of us instead of an infinite number of other people He could have made. Each of us was wanted and planned by God, and we are all loved by Him.

God made us to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

"You are a thought of God. You are a heartbeat of God. To say this is like saying that you have a value...that is infinite, that you matter to God in your complete unique individuality." (St. John Paul II)

ii. Life is Sacred

When God breathed on man, God imparted His Divine breath of life to us. It means therefore that our life is sacred. Sacred came from the Latin word "sacer" which means to be consecrated or to belong to.

Every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. It must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights.

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."²

iii. Life is Valuable

Every human being is inestimably valuable. There is no test to pass. There is no age or stage of growth to be achieved to earn our worth. We are valuable, not because of how, where, or when we happen to be, but simply because of who we happen to be. As privileged creatures of God, He has created us in His very "image and likeness" (Gen 1:26), unlike any other beings in existence.

Our dignity, then, is not about what we can or cannot do. Rather, our dignity is about what God has already done; it flows from our unique relationship with Him; it flows from the sacrifice of His Son made for us on the cross.

b. Family

i. Vital Cell of Society

The Church has always taught the importance of the family as the basic unit of the social fabric of society itself: "Authority, stability, and a life of relationships

² Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258

within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society” (CCC 2207).³

The family makes a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the good of society. A society built on a family is the best guarantee against drifting off course into individualism because within the family the person is always at the center of attention as an end and never as a means.⁴ The family does not exist for society or the State, but society and the State exist for the family.⁵

ii. Domestic Church

Lumen Gentium (“Light of the Nations”) describes the family as the ‘domestic Church’ because it is the first place where young, baptized Christians learn about their faith. Just as the universal Church is a community of believers, the family mirrors this on a smaller scale.

The family is the first school of faith, where parents play a crucial role in nurturing their children’s spiritual growth. It is where we learn to relate, sacrifice, and love one another.

The dignity and responsibility of the Christian family as the domestic Church can be achieved only with God’s unceasing aid, which will surely be granted if it is humbly and trustingly petitioned in prayer. Prayer should be at the center of the life of the family.

iii. Sanctuary of Life and Love

The family is considered a sacred space where life begins and flourishes. New life is welcomed, cherished, and supported within the family. The family becomes a haven where life is celebrated, where joys are shared, and where challenges are faced together.

The family is a life sanctuary and a place where life is lived fully in love. It is where love is expressed, forgiveness is offered, and relationships are deepened. Through daily interactions, family members learn virtues and they experience the beauty of sacrificial love.

We are blessed beyond measure knowing that family and life are blessings from God. It is because of God’s unfailing love. He only planned what was true, good, and beautiful.

“I came so that you may have life, life to the full.” John 10:10

³ [The Family in the Catechism of the Catholic Church \(vatican.va\)](http://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/2003/06/036659a.html)

⁴ Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church 213

⁵ Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church 214

This love is made perfect in the person of Jesus. He is the fullness of life. If we want to fully know what life is and how to be loved in the family, we need to look to Jesus as a model of living life to the full.

Activity:

- *Lead the participants into reflecting on God's goodness in their family and life. Play the Lyric Video "Now and Forever His"*⁶.
- *Lead them to write the blessings they have in their family and life on a piece of paper.*
- *Make them post the paper on a wall as a symbol that everyone is blessed by God.*

III. Culture of Life vs Culture of Death

God's plan for us is to have a future full of hope. It is what He desires for us, to experience the fullness of life. When sin entered the story, everything changed. The devil seeks to build his kingdom on earth by establishing a culture that is not of God. We can see it happening now in our society through the Culture of DEATH.

a. Culture of DEATH

What is the Culture of Death? St. Pope Paul VI told us the meaning and definition of this culture. "Whatever is opposed to life itself, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, and whatever insults human dignity. This is a supreme dishonor to God." Let us learn how the devil leads us to a life embracing this culture that is apart from God.

i. Misunderstanding of Our Identity

First, there is a misunderstanding of the human person. Today there is a sense that the human person has dignity and value only if he or she is wanted, fully able to care for himself or herself, and able to be completely autonomous. The unborn or the dying, since they are not autonomous and are unable to care for themselves, are considered not to have the same rights or dignity as others.

ii. False Idea of Freedom

Second, there is a false idea of freedom and the disconnection of freedom from truth. This disconnection leads to subjectivism and relativism which negates objective truth about what is good and what is evil.

For Catholics, there is a clear relationship between truth and freedom. Jesus taught, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32). A culture of life, for a believer or non-believer, is deeply aware that freedom and truth must be related, and that true freedom must be grounded in the truth.

iii. Loss of the Sense of God

⁶ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U8tsF56U8nUKOuRW3-SGKDj9ntIzchJW/view?usp=drive_link

Third, in a culture of death with the loss of the sense of God, there is no hope for humanity. If there is no sense of God, there is no sense of eternal life. The human person essentially lives in despair when there is no hope for immortality. This view of man and the loss of the sense of God lead "to a practical materialism, which breeds individualism, utilitarianism, and hedonism" (EV 23). If human life is to be valued, the culture must have a sense of the Creator.

Today the Culture of Death is mainly manifested in evil acts represented by the acronym D.E.A.T.H which stands for Divorce, Euthanasia, Abortion, Total Population Control, and Homosexuality.

Video: Play the reality video.

Note: Explain briefly the Culture of DEATH.

- Divorce: God brings a man and a woman together in Holy Matrimony and directs them to have children, but divorce breaks up the marriage and destroys the family.
- Euthanasia: God honors the dignity of old age, especially after a life well lived, but euthanasia proclaims old people are useless and must be disposed of, being a burden to society.
- Abortion: God brings new life into the world, while abortion terminates that life while yet in the womb.
- Total Population Control: God intends for couples to multiply and fill the earth, but population controllers claim that there are too many people in the world so the global population must be drastically cut.
- Homosexuality: God created us male and female, but the world claims many other genders and even offers surgery for sex change.

The Culture of death is Satan's tool for opposing what is of God and trying to destroy God's plan for the world.⁷ It is an assault against family and life. When we believe in this culture we are turning away from God's beautiful plan. There is more to life than this culture of death. Let us beam with hope trusting and obeying God's plan for family and life.

b. Culture of Life

With the culture of life, we look at human life at all stages from conception through natural death as sacred. A "culture" is the living expression of a particular society's set of values. So, a "culture of life" would be the lived expression of a society that:

- i. Values human life: Life is a gift, and it is sacred.
- ii. Respect the dignity of man: Our dignity stems from who God is. We are all created equal.
- iii. Protects the rights of every person: Life starts from conception, and it must end naturally through death.

⁷ 40 Days of Life by Frank Padilla

Even if the world we are living in now is entrenched in the culture of death, there is still hope. Our hope is Jesus. He is our sure way to experience a fulfilled life and a deeper familial relationship.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

IV. Choosing Life

Every day we are always confronted with choices. In every choice that we make there is a corresponding result. These results can make or break us. God is asking us, "What will you choose? Good or evil? Life or death?"

I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live. Deuteronomy 30:19

God desires for us to choose life. Choosing life means much more than what is commonly understood as being pro-life. Choosing life is opting for the fullness of life that God gave us when He created a wonderful world for us to enjoy, and over which He gave us dominion. We can choose life daily by:

a. Living Life

If we are to choose life, then we must start with ourselves. We must live a life worthy of God, so we will become worthy to become His instruments in the world. We can live life by developing an intimate relationship with Christ. Prayer is our way to commune with God. When we pray regularly, we begin to know God more, enough to love Him. And when we love Him, we can love others as well.

b. Defending Life

If we are to choose life, then we not only live life, but we must also defend life. Defense of life brings us to active work in pro-life advocacies and building a strong family for Christ.

i. Be a pro-life advocate.

As Catholics, we must continue to educate ourselves. We can continue to grow in the knowledge of the Church's teachings about family and life. Read and watch different pro-life content available to us so we can continue to defend family and life.

Visit Live Life's website (www.lcscivelife.com) and YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@LCSCLiveLife>) to access different pro-life content.

ii. Build up our Families in Christ.

One of the important aspects of life in God is having a strong Christian family. We don't have a perfect family, but we can still build up a strong family for Christ. We are to bring Christ into our family life. We can do so by starting to forgive one

another for the hurts committed, being grateful for the love being given by each family member, and truly loving in spite and despite the limitations of everyone.

c. Promoting Life

If we are to choose life, then we not only defend life, but we proactively promote life. This relates to the fullness of life, not just to so-called pro-life advocacy. This promotion of life involves the work of evangelization.

There is no better way to promote life than to share our Jesus experiences with others. Our world is hungry for authentic witnesses who show that Jesus is fully alive. Our stories can be our way of showing others that God's plan is, indeed, true, good, and beautiful.

Personal Witnessing: Sharing must be a personal life story on how God allowed him/her to understand his/her mission to live, defend, and promote life.

V. Conclusion

Activity: Play the video "Falling Plates"

There is urgency in our world today to live out, defend, and promote the culture of life. This will begin when each one of us chooses God, loves, and chooses life. There is no other time to begin making God's plan a reality but now. God desires us to live a full life in Christ at the center of it. The desire for God is written in the human heart because man is created by God and for God, and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for (CCC 27).

Activity:

- *End with a Prayer of*
 - *Thanksgiving for the gift of family and life.*
 - *Commitment to Pro-life advocacy. Let the audience read the Live Life Prayer.*
- *Promote LCSC and the Live Life Pillar Website and Social Media Account.*
 - *If there are questions, they can reach us through our accounts.*

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

MFC Defending Life Series

Specific Objectives

After the session, the participants are expected to:

1. Understand God's original plan for marriage.
2. Identify attacks of the devil about the sanctity of marriage.
3. Commit to strengthen marriages and help promote its beauty to others.

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

It has always been a joy to witness two people getting married. This may be a dream come true for some, a highlight of their lives, and certainly a moment you want to celebrate with the people close to your heart like family and friends.

Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman and God. Since it is a commitment forged by God it can never be broken and separated. "Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate," (Mark 10:9) Marriage happens when a baptized man and woman who are in love decide to commit themselves to one another forever. They consecrate each other to God, and they promise to live their whole life seeking the good of the other and the family that they will form. Marriage forms a family out of love.

"The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament." CCC 1601

II. Marriage is Under Attack

When we look at the present situation of society today, it seems that we are facing big challenges in marriage. God created marriage to seal the love of a man and a woman. It was created beautifully. However, today, we are experiencing challenges regarding marriage that make us think and feel otherwise.

a. Cohabitation (Live-In)

It's no secret that many couples are cohabiting, that is, living together in a sexual relationship without marriage. Many couples believe mistakenly that cohabitation will lower their risk of separation/divorce. This is an understandable misconception, since many people are the children of divorce, or have other family members or friends who have divorced. Other reasons for living together include convenience, financial savings, companionship and security, and a desire to move out of their parents' house. Studies show that children born to cohabiting couples are much more likely to experience a

parental breakup compared to children born to married couples.⁸ Also, people who cohabit are more likely to get a divorce or separated.⁹

There are plenty of studies that can show us that cohabitation has negative effects on the couple and the family. Marriage can benefit greatly the family and society.

b. Adultery

Adultery refers to marital infidelity. When two partners, of whom at least one is married to another party, have sexual relations - even transient ones - they commit adultery. Christ condemns even adultery of mere desire. The Sixth Commandment (Exodus 20:14) and the New Testament forbid adultery (Matthew 5:28).

Adultery is an injustice. He who commits adultery fails in his commitment. He does injury to the sign of the covenant which the marriage bond is, transgresses the rights of the other spouse, and undermines the institution of marriage by breaking the contract on which it is based. He compromises the good of the human generation and the welfare of children who need their parents' stable union. CCC 2381

Research suggests that teens and older kids who witness infidelity in their parents become more likely to end relationships that could be saved, making them more prone to divorce. Some kids never marry following such trauma.¹⁰

c. Divorce

The Lord Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be indissoluble.

Divorce is a grave offense against the natural law. It claims to break the contract, to which the spouses freely consented, to live with each other till death. Divorce does injury to the covenant of salvation, of which sacramental marriage is the sign. Contracting a new union, even if it is recognized by civil law, adds to the gravity of the rupture: the remarried spouse is then in a situation of public and permanent adultery. CCC 2384

Divorce is immoral also because it introduces disorder into the family and society. This disorder brings grave harm to the deserted spouse, to children traumatized by the separation of their parents and often torn between them, and because of its contagious effect which makes it truly a plague on society.

These three are the negative realities marriages face today. Satan wants to destroy what is true, good, and beautiful about God's gift of covenantal union between man and woman. We need to learn how to defend this sacred institution from the onslaught of the enemy.

⁸ [Study: Cohabitation more harmful than divorce | National Catholic Reporter \(ncronline.org\)](#)

⁹ [Modern Myths About Cohabitation \(catholiceducation.org\)](#)

¹⁰ [See what EXPLOSIVE revelations about infidelity and children this author discovered - Marriage & Family - Home & Family - News - Catholic Online](#)

III. Build Up Our Marriages in Christ

Marriage is a vocation to holiness. Married couples have the awesome task of witnessing to God's faithful love for each other, their children, and society. Divorce, separation, and many other things that affect marriage and destroy families are now a reality in our society. There is no perfect relationship between husband and wife. But we can do something to enrich our marriages. There is hope. We can change tomorrow by changing ourselves today.

a. Lead each other to Christ.

"God's invitation to become saints is for all, not just a few. Sanctity therefore must be accessible to all. In what does it consist? In a lot of activity? No. In doing extraordinary things? No, this could not be for everybody and at all times. Therefore, sanctity consists in doing good, and in doing this good in whatever condition and place God has placed us. Nothing more, nothing outside of this."

— Blessed Louis Tezza

Every Christian is called to be holy. Holiness entails living like Jesus daily through the help and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. One way that couples can lead each other closer to Christ is by praying together every day. Praying together can help strengthen relationships, share the joys and sorrows of family life, and align with God's plan. Praying as a couple can also help overcome temptations, forgive each other, and have an opportunity to invite Christ into the relationship and experience His love and grace.

Let us model our relationship as husband and wife through the example of St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary. They exemplified a life attuned to God's will and led each other to holiness.

b. Observe faithfully the marriage vow.

"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."

Weddings are sacred affairs for Catholics. It's more than just binding two people in matrimony. It's also about making a promise before God and before man. The exchange of vows mainly signifies consent. It means that they give themselves to and accept the gift of each other. Without consent from both parties, there can be no wedding.

We state our commitment to one another to build our families with Christian values and to love each other forever. This is a lifetime commitment and not just for a certain time. Commitment to this kind of life entails the totality of a person's life. We can't do it alone that is why we need the grace of God to help us be true to our promise to one another.

c. Valiantly defend marriage.

We know the reality that the devil is moving to destroy marriage and family life. As MFC members we are called to defend it. It is what God called us to do as a community. It will start with us as couples. It will start with the belief that marriage is sacred and it was

founded by Christ. Also, that marriage is not just a piece of a document, but it is a covenant with God.

We can defend marriage valiantly as an institution by living out our vocation faithfully by educating ourselves and others about the meaning and value of marriage, and by praying for the conversion of those who oppose or undermine it.

d. Evangelize Couples.

Our charism as a community is to evangelize through family renewal. Let us not forget to share with other couples the beauty of having Christ at the center of our lives. One way is to share our own experience of God's love and grace in our marriages. We can also offer support and encouragement to families that face challenges and difficulties in their relationships.

Evangelizing couples will start by becoming witnesses of God's love and show them that God can transform and bless their relationships.

True love can help us attain the very plan of God in our relationships. True love is unconditional and selfless love. Let us look to Jesus as our model of this kind of love. Let us look to the Holy Family as our inspiration to live out this call to build up our marriages in God's design.

IV. Conclusion

Marriage, as a vocation, calls you to steer a tiny boat – wave-tossed yet sturdy, thanks to the reality of the sacrament – across a sometimes stormy sea. How often do you want to say, or better, cry out, like the apostles: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mk 4:38). Let us never forget, though, that by the sacrament of matrimony, Jesus is present in that boat; he is concerned for you, and he remains at your side amid the tempest. In another Gospel passage, as they rowed with difficulty, the disciples saw Jesus coming to them on the waters and welcomed him into their boat. Whenever you are buffeted by rough winds and storms, do the same thing: welcome Jesus into your boat, for once he “got into the boat with them... the wind ceased” (Mk 6:51). It is important that, together, you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Only in this way, will you find peace, overcome conflicts and discover solutions to many of your problems. Those problems, of course, will not disappear, but you will be able to see them from a different perspective. – Pope Francis¹¹

¹¹ [Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to Married Couples for the “Amoris Laetitia Family” Year, 2021-2022 \(26 December 2021\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

LIFE IS SACRED

MFC Defending Life Series

Specific Objectives

After the session, the participants are expected to:

1. Understand that life is a gift from God and therefore sacred.
2. Know the attacks of the enemy about life in our society.
3. Commit to live their life to the full amidst difficulties experienced.

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

Most of us, at one point, got interested in thriller movies, series, or stories. I guess what makes us excited about these films is that they involve watching a character fighting for his/ her life but ultimately, we are hooked on it because it is all about survival. We have seen characters that suffer and are scared and yet they would do anything to live. It does not matter if they are the only ones left. They choose to fight their oppressors so that they can live. They do this because of the basic principle that is the foundation of every human story: life is worth living and fighting for.

We, in MFC, believe this to be true. We go through suffering, joy, pain, and the many wonders of life believing that life, no matter how difficult it may seem, is worth living until our last breath. We highly value life because we believe that God, Himself, authored it and therefore it is sacred. That is why it is stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being." (CCC 2258)

II. Life in Danger

However, in our times today, we are seeing how people have a disregard for the sanctity of life. Now, it seems normal for us to hear stories of people taking their own lives or of others as if it is theirs to begin with. The world's total neglect of the value of human life has led us to the constant rise of end-of-life culture.

"Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good. We need then to show care for all life and the life of everyone" (EV, 87).

a. End-of-Life Culture

We in MFC oppose the proposed re-imposition of the Death Penalty in our country. We are to go against the Culture of Death and defend family and life. Why are we against

ending the life of a person by our means? These activities disregard the inherent dignity of the human person.

"Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good. We need then to show care for all life and the life of everyone" (EV, 87).

Also, this affects those living in poverty. Regarding Death Penalty there is a real and imminent danger of convicting the innocent. Our imperfect criminal justice system can put to death innocent persons and as such is inhuman. Instead, we should intensify our work to help uplift the lives of the poor through various moral and life-giving material and spiritual interventions.

b. Suicide

Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's death. Some suicides are impulsive acts due to stress. Some are due to clinical conditions such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, personality disorders, and substance abuse — including alcoholism and the use of benzodiazepines — are risk factors.

It is alarming that recently those who are in the age range of 15 to 30 years old are the ones who are at most risk to commit suicide¹². It is believed that media, which includes the internet, plays a significant role in the rise of suicide among teens.

When we feel the urge to hurt ourselves, that is the time when we need to remember that life is sacred and that it is a gift from God. During these times, we need to ask for God's grace to overcome the temptation to hurt ourselves. God will not abandon us; He has given people to support and help us with whatever it is that we are going through.

Besides these things, we must also remember that as humans, we need to give importance to our mental health. Most of us have been conditioned to take care of our physical body but we often forget that our mind needs proper care and assistance too. It would be a great thing if we learn to seek help from mental health professionals when things seem overwhelming. Mental Health Awareness is indispensable because some mental illnesses, if left untreated, may lead to self-harm.

c. Euthanasia

Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable. (CCC 2277)

Euthanasia is the practice of intentionally ending a life to relieve pain and suffering. There are two types of euthanasia, there is voluntary euthanasia and involuntary euthanasia. It is voluntary if it is conducted with the consent of the person, while, involuntary is

¹² [Pinoy youth in worse mental shape today, nationwide survey indicates | UP Population Institute \(upd.edu.ph\)](https://www.upd.edu.ph/news/pinoy-youth-in-worse-mental-shape-today-nationwide-survey-indicates)

conducted without the consent of the person. In both cases, euthanasia involves killing the person to eliminate the pain and in both cases they are wrong.

There is a significant difference between refusing treatment (which is acceptable) and euthanasia (which is assisted suicide) for in refusing treatment, you will die from natural causes, while in euthanasia you will die due to suicide.

While nobody is against eliminating the pain when a patient is dying, there is something wrong if we accept the killing of the patient as a means of eliminating pain.

Euthanasia is morally wrong, for we believe that euthanasia, in whatever form or motive, is murder. It is gravely contrary to the sanctity of life and a total rejection of our belief that life is a gift from God. The truth is that we, at any point, do not have a "right to die." We do not have a death claim. Rather, it is death that has a claim on us.

III. Living the Fullness of Life

"Man is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence because it consists in sharing the very life of God." (EV 2)

As members of MFC, we are called not to accept suicide as an acceptable response to escape our sufferings and pains. We are also to fight any proposal to legalize euthanasia whether voluntary or involuntary. We are also called to fight the looming threat of re-imposition of the Death Penalty in our country. We believe that ending the gift of life is evil and a force against the sanctity of life. Thus, we are called to promote the value of life and we do it when we:

a. Live life to the full

Many people nowadays embrace the idea of Y.O.L.O. (You Only Live Once) and so they do thrill things; sometimes to the point that they unknowingly hurt themselves (e.g. too much drinking, vices, etc.) YOLO is true. Each of us only lives once so instead of spending our lives living in sin and doing meaningless activities, we must see it as something precious. We must live it to the full according to how God wishes us to live it.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

We also value and give fullness to life by saying no to every activity that devalues human life. We believe that every life here on earth is worth living until the very end be there suffering in it. We recognize that suffering exists and is an inescapable part of our lives. But we also believe that this suffering can help unite us with God and make us realize how much we need Him in our lives. This is what our faith called "Redemptive Suffering".

We embrace life despite our crosses because we are anchored on Jesus. This does not only mean that we live our lives until our last breath. But God desires that we live our lives to the fullest whatever season we may be, whether in happiness or pain; trusting well that God can be glorified in every period of our lives; that when we encounter suffering His grace for us will suffice.

b. Embrace the Gift of Life

Since every human life is undeniably desired by God, and therefore invaluable, each life including ours is a gift from God. Every human life carries a gift regardless of how sick, old, ugly, or unwanted others might judge another life to be. Thus, we should uphold the sanctity of life and we can do this when we choose to:

i. Love God

Fighting for life is arduous but it is only made possible when we have a loving relationship with God who is the giver of life. It is in God that we find meaning and fullness in our lives. Even when we experience pain and suffering, our hearts can learn how to endure if we are strongly connected with Him.

ii. Be a Pro-life Missionary

The Church is the last standing institution that fully fights for the sanctity of life. As MFC members we must take part in this fight of our Church by being actively involved in the pro-life movement, particularly in Live Life Pillar. The world needs more people who can openly talk about their stand on life issues. The world is at a loss for the real meaning of life. We need people who can actively engage in pro-life discussions and who study and take by heart our pro-life teachings.

iii. Promote Life

The fullness of life is in Christ. We are blessed to know Christ and have the opportunity to live Christ daily. It is not enough to just know and do what He commands. We need to be an authentic witness of a life lived in Christ. We must share the very life of Christ with everyone. We are called to evangelize and share with them how precious and wonderful life is.

We are God's stewards of life. Let us learn to celebrate life in all its seasons. Embrace it and be grateful for it with all its ups and downs. For we only have one life to live and so we must express gratitude to God by living it to the full.

IV. Conclusion

Life is a gift from God. It is therefore sacred. No one can decide its end, so we must do all that we can to preserve it. We do not decide when our life will end, any more than we decided when it began. Much less does someone else - a family member, a health professional, or a legislator - decide when our life will end. It is never "care" in any meaning of the word, to terminate life, even if that life seems to be full of suffering.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

MFC Defending Life Series

Specific Objectives

At the end of the session, the participants should be able to:

1. Appreciate God's gift of life and know and understand His plan.
2. Embrace our call to value life from the moment of conception and defend life from abortion.
3. Stand by the Catholic Church's teaching about family and life.

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

In Physics, we learn that 'For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction,' (Newton's Third Law of Motion). In life, we realize that for every choice or decision that we make there is a corresponding consequence. Out of God's choice to love us, He created us in His image and likeness, blessing us with intellect and free will. Because of this, He gives us the freedom to choose right from wrong, to choose life over death.

Unfortunately, man has adapted to a wrong notion of freedom, interpreting that we can do whatever we want because of that freedom. This notion is also usually the reason for most of us choosing to be silent or passive when it comes to defending the culture of life. God, however, calls us to protect and defend His original plan for life.

II. God's Plan for Human Life

The right to life is the fundamental right of every human person. To violate this right, to kill or destroy a life at any age or stage of development – whether in the womb or out of the womb – is a crime against God and humanity. But the question is when does human life begin? God has an original design for life in which we are called to respect and protect life from the moment of conception.

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." (CCC #2270)

a. Life begins at conception.

The moment the egg and sperm meet, life begins. Mutation happens from hereon. Currently, all the necessary factors that create a human being are present. When the chromosomes of the father and mother unite, they form a unique, never-to-be-duplicated human person. Any further formation of the person is purely a matter of development, growth, and maturation. Life formed in conception is already considered a human being that is to be treated as sacred.

b. Life is sacred.

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being." (CCC #2258)

The sacredness of life is affirmed by our Creator. God is the Creator of human life. And He has made His creation in His image and likeness. And because He imprinted on each one of us, God has designed life to be sacred from conception to death, from beginning to end.

c. Life is a gift.

"Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being." (CCC #2274)

Life is a gift and God is the Giver. It is natural then, that we are called to cherish and care for that gift. Because God is the Giver of life, He is the only One who can also take back life. We as receivers of the gift of life, having been given life by God, are called to defend, protect, and care for life.

III. The Attack on the Unborn: Abortion

In God's plan, life is sacred and a gift from the moment of conception. Sadly, man has become blinded by worldly concerns that changed the way he appreciates and values life. Here are the lies that Satan promotes to every person to destroy life.

- a. The unborn are not yet living beings. Mothers can choose to get rid of them because it's just blood or a piece of tissue.
- b. Life is dependent on the mother's choice – whether she will keep the baby or not. Sadly, this way of thinking has gone to the extreme of saying that the woman owns her body and claims that she can do anything she wants with it.
- c. Abortion should be an option for a young woman with an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy because she would not be able to meet the expectations of her parents and family.

Sadly, babies nowadays are regarded as burdens and not as blessings. The contraceptive mentality is prevalent even among married couples, who should be open to life. Some couples are already contented with having one child because it is hard and impractical to raise two or more children. Because this "mindset" has been acceptable to the world, we find it difficult to choose life. However, these present realities do not change God's plan for the gift of life.

Choosing abortion exposes a woman to a lot of physical¹³, psychological¹⁴, and societal¹⁵ effects. It can cause damage to the reproductive organ, increased risk to fertility, and sickness that is directly connected to abortion.

¹³ [Health Risks of Abortion | Human Life International \(hli.org\)](https://hli.org/health-risks-of-abortion/)

¹⁴ [Post-Abortion Stress Syndrome \(PASS\): Validating Women \(hli.org\)](https://hli.org/post-abortion-stress-syndrome-pass-validating-women/)

¹⁵ [Relationship after Abortion: Will Abortion Help or Hurt? | HLI](https://hli.org/relationship-after-abortion-will-abortion-help-or-hurt/)

IV. Truth that Matters

"Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law: 'You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish. God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.'" (CCC #2271)

Life has always been sacred. Because God loves us so much, He became man so that He can save us from our sins and death and so that we might live through Him. Even Mary chose life from the moment she knew she was the chosen one of the Lord to be the mother of Jesus (Lk 1:28-38) until she gave birth to Him.

God made it a point that in salvation history, Jesus would raise the value of human life. This is something that we should know and embrace as members of the community. We stand by the teachings of the Catholic Church on the sacredness of life.

"Every individual, precisely because of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore, every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (cf. Mk 16:15)." (EV 3)

V. Our Response

Being a servant to the Church, we defend the Catholic values and ideals. One of which is our stand to defend life from the moment of conception. And so, we say no to Abortion. How can we stand by the Church in saying No to Abortion, more concretely? Let us be a gift to the Church and the community.

a. Gratitude to God.

Life is the first gift we have received. We need to thank God daily for this miracle. Let us embrace the attitude of gratitude as we embark on this advocacy. It will start with our recognition that God is the author and giver of life, and we are called to be stewards of this divine gift.

b. Invest in pro-life knowledge.

We are a pro-life community, and we all need to be solid advocates of life. Our community, through the LIVE LIFE pillar, will have the resources (formation programs and social media content) to better educate ourselves and our members. Let us share the good news with our brethren and help one another become more aware and more empowered to defend the stand of the Catholic Church in matters of faith, family, and life.

c. Fight for the culture of life.

The sanctity of life is always attacked by the enemy on all fronts. Some people lobby to decriminalize abortion in the country, and some groups preach lies about abortion among young people allowing their minds to be distorted and embrace the culture of death. Let us not allow the devil to win this war. Let us join forces to establish the culture of life in our families, in our workplaces, in our parishes, and in society.

d. Teach others the value of life.

The fight of the third millennium is about family and life and so we need to urgently respond to the call to preach the Gospel of life with dauntless fidelity. There is a need to have widespread, deliberate, and intentional pro-life teaching, formation, and training. Let us promote the Gospel of Life through the formations we have in Live Life Pillar to different institutions and parishes. Let us proclaim the fullness of life in Christ.

VI. Conclusion

“The child is God’s gift to the family. Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things – to love and to be loved.” – St Teresa of Calcutta

We have come to know and understand God’s original design for life. Indeed, it is a gift, and it is sacred and beautiful from beginning to end. As members of the Missionary Families of Christ, a Catholic renewal community, committed to promoting and defending faith, family, and life, we have come to recognize that God is calling us to defend and protect life. These action steps to say no to abortion and yes to life just show that we are taking responsibility for the beautiful gift of life. Let us commit to defend the basic right to life in each person and embrace our call to value life from the moment of conception. We respond to the call of the Catholic Church’s teaching to uphold and defend the sanctity of life.

Pastoral Note:

If we have any member who needs support about their pregnancy and needs counselling our community partnered with Pregnancy Support Services of Asia.

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OVERPOPULATION IS A MYTH

MFC Defending Life Series

Specific Objectives

At the end of the session, the participants are expected to:

1. Know the myths about overpopulation.
2. Understand the dangers of Total Population Control.
3. Embrace our calling to defend the culture of life.

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

In the world where we live today, we see all kinds of people: male, female, old, young, working, studying, and many others. Each person differs from another: physically and culturally. Every individual is unique, but the beautiful thing about this is every person on this planet is designed solely by God. Every person is completely willed by Him and He desires that we have dominion over His other creations. It says in Genesis 1:28 "Have many children, so that your descendants may live all over the earth and bring it under their control". It is a sacred order from the Divine Creator that we all must follow.

But in our world today, there is a great battle when it comes to promoting and defending the culture of life. One of the enemies that we face is total population control. In this session we will talk about Total Population Control, why overpopulation is a myth, what is the stand of our Church regarding this, and what we can do as Catholics.

II. Total Population Control

First, let us define the meaning of Total Population Control. It is the attempt to limit the growth in numbers of a country's population, especially in places believed to be poor or "densely populated" through programs of contraception. There is much propaganda promoting this like abortion, the two-child policy, and the use of contraceptives. Many countries adopt Population Control in the belief that they need it because their country is "overpopulated".

Overpopulation is a great misconception in our world today. This term was only made up by selfish people, and who want all the resources of the earth to belong to them.

III. Overpopulation is a Myth

We can see in the table below the common myths connected to overpopulation. The second column contains the truths behind each myth while the final column contains the real problems of the world that must be addressed.

MYTH	TRUTH	PROBLEM
1. Limited resources.	God created the world with enough resources to sustain everyone's needs but not everyone's greed. Thus, this is a 1 st world agenda because they want to stop the 3 rd world countries from using their resources so that they can develop.	The problems that we need to address are poverty and corruption. These are the reasons why some countries do not get as many resources compared to others.
2. Too many children are being born.	There should be 2.2 reproduction ratios of children for every couple to ensure that our species will continue.	The population pyramid is upside down. This means fewer babies are being born now than before. This results in the aging of the population which is not good for the development of humans.
3. Too many people are a problem.	People are a resource.	People are underutilized.
4. Global warming/Climate Change.	They say that we need to lessen our population because it influences how our climate changes. The truth is regardless of how many are people in the world climate always changes.	It is the irresponsible use and exploitation of our environment and our natural resources that destroy the world.
5. There is a need for family planning.	Yes! But natural family planning and responsible parenthood as defined by the Church teachings.	Rampant use of Artificial Family Planning through contraception. Blatant killing of unborn children.

Now that we fully understand that these myths are all lies and are simply blatant attacks on life, we must actively promote the truth about overpopulation and learn to address the real problems of our society.

IV. Ultimate Defense

Knowing that family and life are under attack through total population control propaganda, we as people of God need to do our part by seriously seeking the truth in our world today. We must be critical in taking in ideas that could be opposite to what God wants to happen. We can be active life defenders by:

- a. Educate yourself with the truth.

We must remain updated with the current trends that are happening in our nation and the world. Our eyes should already be open to the happenings in our society. We must be discerning if these things are following God's will.

No soldier will go to a battle without his shield and sword. As we defend life, may we begin to study and seek the truth regarding the many issues surrounding the sanctity of life, and as we learn about the truth, we must boldly share it with others.

b. Embrace a pro-life mindset.

We should have a pro-life mindset by always remembering what Pope Benedict XVI said, “Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.” We must give importance to life no matter how young or old it may be. There can never be “too many” people because God desires each one of us to live. No one is a mere excess.

We also need to live a pro-life lifestyle by avoiding the trap of having a “contraceptive mentality”. We encourage couples to use Natural Family Planning methods instead of using birth control pills, condoms, sterilization procedures, IVF, etc.

In the MFC community, we promote the Porsuelo Experience. This was an innovation by Nanay Feling Porsuelo with her husband, Tatay Eli. She is known as the NFP “grassroots” scientist by St. John Paul II during his pontificate. They became members of the Pontifical Council of the Family. NFP helps to enhance the marital intimacy of couples not just helping them to achieve or postpone pregnancy.

c. Evangelize

Bringing people back to Christ is the most fundamental work in promoting the culture of life, for life is in Christ and nowhere else. We never forget our calling as a community to defend faith, family, and life because it is where the battle is happening between God and Satan. We answer God’s call for us to be Holy Warriors and become promoters of the beauty of life.

V. Conclusion

How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers. – St. Teresa of Calcutta

There will never be a time that there will be too many children. The grace of God will always perfect the natural institution of life in all aspects. God calls us to defend the family and life even more. Most of us know the truth, but sometimes because we do not know what to do with the truth; we merely set it aside and forget it. We want things to be convenient, but we are made not for comfort, we are made for greatness! We need to stand up for what is true, good, and beautiful no matter how unpopular it may be. This is our stand, we will stand with the Catholic Church, and we will fight and defend faith, family, and life.

ORIGINAL IDENTITY: ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

MFC Defending Life Series

Specific Objectives

After the session, the participants are expected to:

1. Understand the Church and community's stand towards Homosexuality.
2. Value our gift of sexuality.
3. Commit to speak out against Gender Ideology.

Expanded Outline

I. Introduction

In the world we have today, we see homosexuality being accepted in different parts of the world. Certain countries have allowed same-sex marriage to happen, have Church officials asking the Church to reform its teachings regarding homosexuality, and have given them "gay rights". What the world tells us is that we are all made equal, that we are all still the same, and that we need to embrace and accept one another, a call to "love".

While there are hints of truth behind these statements, there are certain truths that we need to remember. After all, if we are called to love, we need to have a certain understanding of true love and we need to have the commitment to share love based on the truth. Once we know all these things, we can only find the answer to how to love them.

II. God's Plan: Man and Woman

a. Created in His Image and Likeness

"So, God created mankind as His image, in the image of God He created them male and female He created them" Genesis 1:27

In the beginning of time, God created man and woman out of His image and likeness, therefore having a reflection of His perfection on us. Later, in the second story of Genesis, we even get to discover why God created man and woman in the first place.

b. Made for Each Other

"...the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being... The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him'... So, the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: 'This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body." Genesis 2:7, 18, & 21-24

As we read these passages, it becomes clear how God designed man and woman to be, and that is to be for each other. Through the love and commitment of man and woman, they may become one “body” meaning one in unity and fullness having a sense of wholeness. This is how God’s design for man and woman may be fulfilled, that be whole in harmony.

III. Same-Sex Attraction and Homosexuality

Despite God having this design for man and woman's sexuality, Satan has found a way to distort God’s plan for man and woman. He has spread a lie that confuses us about the truth about our sexuality. What we witness today is confusion about our real identity.

Unfortunately, there is a trend today where the world is pushing us to accept homosexuality to recognize it as a human right. This is a scenario that we, Christians, are usually caught in. The world accepts homosexuality while our Church is reminding us about the dangers of homosexuality. We need to know what homosexuality all is about and be ready to share our convictions with the world. But before we do that, we must first understand what same-sex attraction and homosexuality are and what is the difference between the two.

a. Same-Sex Attraction

Same-sex attraction is the state where a person feels or thinks, the same way as a homosexual, but has not yet decided to act on their attraction. This covers having an attraction to the same sex in wanting to have a romantic relationship with the same sex, wanting to dress like the opposite sex, and wanting to be like the opposite sex yet not acting upon those desires. Same-sex attraction manifests as gay affectations and gestures, the manner of speech and action, and the susceptibility to certain things that social constructs and cultural norms identify as homosexual yet have not lived out.

The thing about same-sex attraction is that:

- i. It is not a person’s decision to have same-sex attraction.
- ii. It is not a sin; it is a temptation that one must overcome.

Given all these, however, a person with same-sex attraction should be aware of their situation. They should seek guidance from people they can trust to handle their circumstances. If this situation is left unchecked, it can lead to the person embracing homosexuality.

b. Homosexuality

This is the stage where a person decides to act out their same-sex attraction. When a homosexual, forms the decision, consciously or unconsciously, to embrace and live out his homosexuality, he takes on what is called the homosexual lifestyle.

Homosexuality is a sin because it means that the person has the maturity and consciousness to recognize his choice to go against God’s design for them. It means giving in to the temptation to go against the will of God. It is a sin because it includes having

sexual relations with the same sex, which is a grievous transgression against God's intent for sex.

There is a basic need to recognize the difference between the condition (same-sex) and the lifestyle (homosexuality) because people with same-sex orientation are often prejudged and castigated for the former when all they have is a condition that is not yet acted out. Now that we have established the difference between same-sex attraction and Homosexuality, let us now see what homosexuality is.

IV. Homosexuality: What it is

When we look at the Church's teachings and where homosexuality fits in all this, its stand is that it treats homosexuality as a sin against God because it goes against the divine law, the natural law, and the moral law. Let us look further into these three to understand why this is so fully.

a. Against Divine Law

It goes against the divine law because it goes against the very plan that God has for man and woman. God created man and woman for them to give love to each other which results in a human life. The simple fact that two of the same gender cannot generate a child goes against the very plan that God had for His people regarding marriage hence going against the divine law.

b. Against Natural Law

The way nature designed males and females is to be different from each other in the different realms of the physical, emotional, physiological, hormonal, intellectual, and psychological. The end -result is that men and women need each other to complement these differences making them whole. This wholeness is love-giving (complete union). Joining two males or two females with one another does not close this hence unnatural.

c. Against Moral Law

Society's moral standards, which promote and secure the order of the world, are dictated by different orders and religions. These standards come from their relationship with God or their divine being. These standards, when looked at closely, strictly promote the sanctity of male and female union as the way to have the fullness of life, one that is whole and one that produces fruit. Because of this, homosexuality is morally irrational.

Realizing these facts, what should be our response to the issue of homosexuality?

V. Our Response

a. Hope in Christ.

It's hardly the person's fault that they have an attraction to the same sex. They did not after all choose to be in this situation. We are called to look to Jesus as our model of carrying our crosses.

Yes, it is true, those people who are challenged with same-sex attraction and homosexuality, have the power to step out of it and choose the path to wholeness and holiness, and that is through choosing Christ. It's in our consciousness that we desire to come closer to goodness, come closer to holiness, and to come closer Christ. This path will lead them to healing and renewal that they all desire and aspire for. What we can do is encourage them to find their hope in Christ.

b. Master our Inclinations.

The Church defines homosexuality as an objective disorder – “an inclination that predisposes one toward what is truly not good for the human person.” This disorder is not defined as a sickness, but disorder as a sense that is not in the order of natural things. Now we see here that it is an inclination meaning an urge to act or feel in a way. Just because our way leans towards this does not mean it is always good. If most humans behaved this way, a lot of chaos would happen as we speak.

The thing about inclination is that it can be tamed, it can be mastered. God has given us free will and intellect to have self-control. We can become better versions of ourselves if we strive to master it. Let us encourage our brothers and sisters with same-sex attraction and those who are living in homosexuality to master their inclinations and turn toward God.

c. Move Forward

Now for the foremost question that burns in the heart of a homosexual – Is change possible? The answer to the question lies in their hearts. For many, the answer is yes. Many homosexuals who have struggled with homosexuality have successfully controlled it and now live happy, productive, and triumphant single lives. Many of them have gone on to love a woman, get married, and have children as well. Others on the other side say that no, change isn't possible, and they are stuck in this lifestyle. There are even people who believe and love God, yet do not believe it is possible.

If we want to pursue real change that will make us holy and whole, we are called to tread upon the path of Christ which is the path of the cross. This is a path that will call us to leave and break away from all the things that turn us away from the Lord and turn us towards sin – this includes the homosexual lifestyle.

The path that a homosexual walk is a hard one and sometimes it can be too much to bear for them. We, as Christians, are called to be accountable to them. The Church recognizes that all of us, including homosexuals, are created in the image and likeness of God thus they possess dignity that must be acknowledged and respected. We are called to accept them with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Only by helping and respecting one another can they see Christ at work which will help them in their conversion.

VI. Conclusion

As Christians, we view the social acceptance of homosexuality or the gay lifestyle as yet another attack on life and the family, the basic unit of the Church and society. We should also reexamine our attitudes about homosexuality especially as it relates to people closest to our hearts – our family and loved ones, friends, and workmates. By knowing all these, may we not be afraid to speak up, stand up, and defend the Gospel of Life.