

Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

How do you focus on what is true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious?

As a pastoral leader, how do you put into action the commitment asked by Pope Leo to “promoting and defending (the dignity of the human person) always, with the light and strength of the Gospel....and not become complacent? “

Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples who
follow Him with enthusiasm and joy,
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit in our
archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses, to radiate Christ in all
we do, so that all people might know, love and follow your
Son through this life and into the next.
Amen.



October 2026

Opening Prayer

Let us pray, (Pause for silent prayer)
that all people might know, love, and follow your Son
through this life and into the next. Amen.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain
that holy people, formed as one
by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
which manifest to the world
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:6-9 (Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Excerpt from the General Audience of Pope Leo XIV,

St. Peter's Square, 9 September 2026

The Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS), by dedicating the first chapter to the dignity of the human person, emphasizes that it is the foundation and condition for “those values which are most highly prized today”, but these must not lose sight of their “divine source”, in order to avoid possible distortions arising from the “taint in man’s human heart” (GS, 11)...

The Church clearly offers her contribution, reminding us that human dignity arises from the very being of the person. I had the opportunity to reiterate this also in my recent Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*: “Every human person is planned and willed by God to enter into communion with Him, with others and with creation. Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of His unfailing love” (no. 50). The infinite dignity of the human being, then, is rooted in his identity as a creature made “to God’s image’ ... capable of knowing and loving his Creator”, a plan and gift of love that transcends other created realities, which are entrusted to his care to “subdue them and use them to God’s glory” (GS, 12)...

Dear brothers and sisters, created in God’s image, through Christ and for His sake, we have received a unique and indelible dignity. Let us commit ourselves to promoting and defending it always, with the light and strength of the Gospel.