

*The
CIRCLE of LIFE
JOURNEY*

Our journey begins with a vision of
**THE SEAMLESS GARMENT
OF LIFE . . .**



A garment woven together by
HUMAN LIVES of many colors,
shapes, patterns, and textures . . .



"Celebration" by John August Swanson



**A SEAMLESS garment . . .
not to be torn apart.**

In ancient Israel,
rending your clothing
was what you did
as a sign of mourning . . .

. . . as a sign of grief
mixed with deep regret.

Rending your
garments was a
ritual sign
of heartbreak.



When the soldiers
had crucified Jesus,
they took his
clothes and divided
them

They also took his tunic,
but the tunic was
SEAMLESS,
woven in one piece
from the top down. . .



John 19:23



So they said to one another,
 "Let's not tear it,
 but cast lots for it
 to see whose it will be."

John 19:24

Today we reflect
 on the many ways
 in which the
 Seamless Garment
 of Life
 has been torn apart



. . . and how a
CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE
 calls us to keep
 the garment woven together.

What is the

CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE ?

It is a comprehensive ethical system
 that links together
 many different issues
 by focusing attention on
 the basic value of life.

Catholic Update:
 "A Consistent Ethic of Life"
 by Ken Overberg, S.J.

The spectrum of life cuts
 across the issues of:



genetics



abortion



capital punishment



modern warfare



the care of the terminally ill

"When human life is
 considered 'cheap'
 or easily expendable
 in one area,
 eventually nothing
 is held as sacred
 and all lives
 are in jeopardy."

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

"If one contends, as we do, that
 the right of every fetus to be born
 should be protected by civil law
 and supported by civil consensus,

then our moral, political
 and economic responsibilities
 do not stop at
 the moment
 of birth."



Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

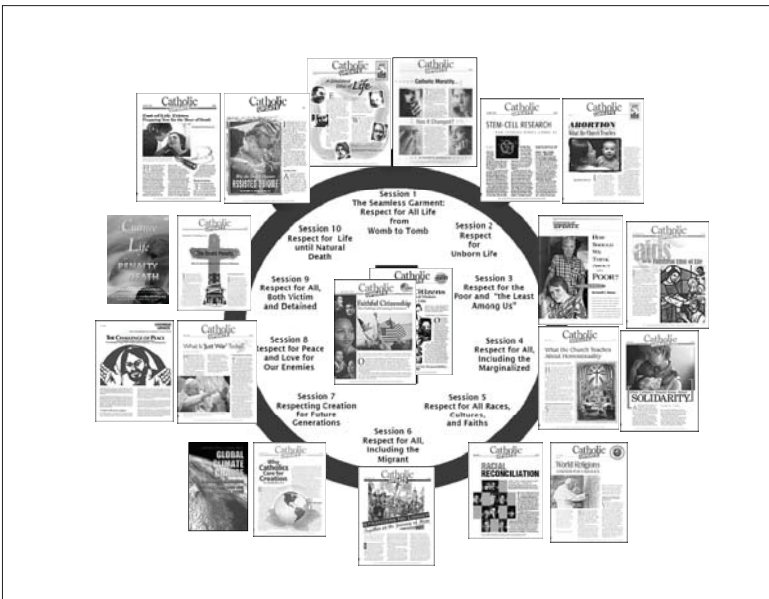
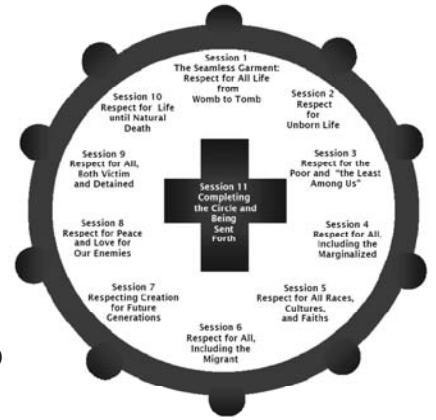
Cardinal Joseph Bernardin:

"Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us -- must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us:

- the old and the young
- the hungry & the homeless
- the undocumented immigrant
- the unemployed worker."



Our CIRCLE OF LIFE JOURNEY will take us through this full spectrum of LIFE ISSUES from "womb to tomb". . .



No individual or group can pursue all issues.

Still while concentrating on one issue, the individual or group must not be seen "as insensitive to or even opposed to other moral claims on the overall spectrum of life."

Respect for UNBORN LIFE



Respect for the POOR & the "LEAST AMONG US"



Often our convictions seem to cluster around 'conservative' or 'liberal' viewpoints

But the consistent ethic of life cuts across such divisions, calling us to respect:

- the life in the womb,
- the life of a criminal,
- the life on welfare,
- the life of the dying.

*Respect for all,
including the
MARGINALIZED*



*Respect for
ALL RACES,
CULTURES,
& FAITHS*



It is not sufficient to be pro-life on some issues;
we must be pro-life on all issues

- no matter what our political party, business, union, talk shows, advertising or family may say. These powerful forces significantly shape our values and convictions, sometimes away from the consistent ethic.

*Respect for all,
including
THE MIGRANT*



*Respecting
CREATION for
FUTURE
GENERATIONS*



Yet FAITH ought to be the deepest source of our values.

This invitation is really a profound challenge:

to look deeply into ourselves and to test against the Gospel some of our own deeply held beliefs and practices.

*Respect for PEACE,
and LOVE
FOR OUR ENEMIES*



*Respect for all,
both VICTIM
& DETAINED*



*Respect for LIFE
until
NATURAL DEATH*



Mature moral decision-making demands careful reflection, honesty and courage.

Searching for the truth in a particular situation, listening to the wisdom of authority and praying for insight mean hard work . . .

DISCERNMENT . . . a willingness to DISCERN and decide.

*COMPLETING
the CIRCLE*



*& Being
SENT
FORTH*

Created in God's image,
redeemed by Jesus,
called to everlasting life,
every Human Being
is sacred and social . . .



. . . every Human Being
is a sign of God's love.

"What is urgently called for is a . . .
united ethical effort
to activate a great campaign
in support of life."

"All together, we must
build a new
CULTURE OF LIFE."

—Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*

A Prayer for Life

Father and maker of all,
you adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives
in your image and likeness.

Awaken in our hearts
reverence for the
work of your hands,
and renew in us
a readiness to protect,
nurture, and sustain
your precious gift of life.

AMEN

Text based largely on: *Catholic Update*
"A Consistent Ethic of Life"
by Ken Overberg, S.J.

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