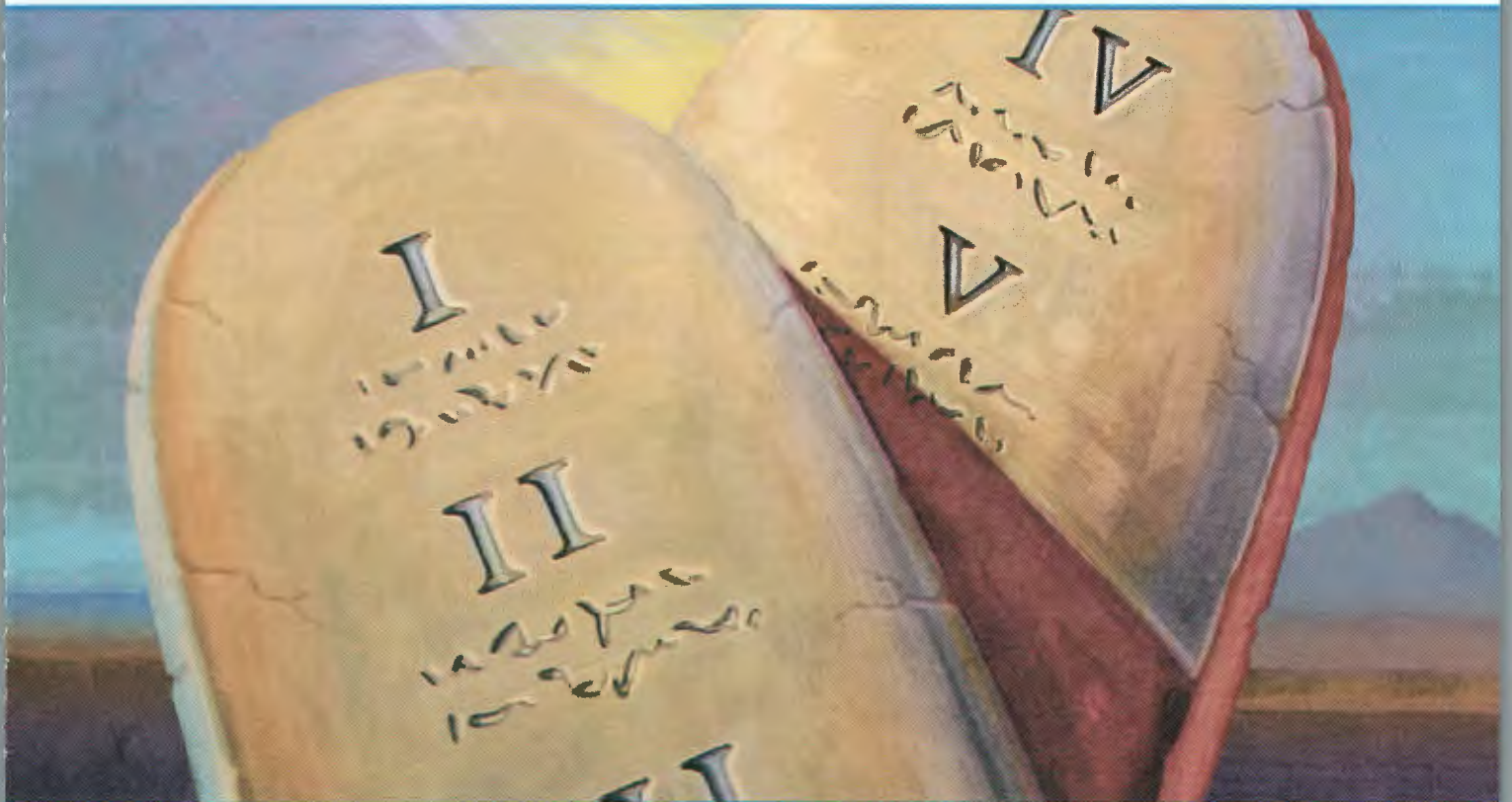


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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**OurSundayVisitor**

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# Respect Life

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** God, we thank you for the precious gift of life.

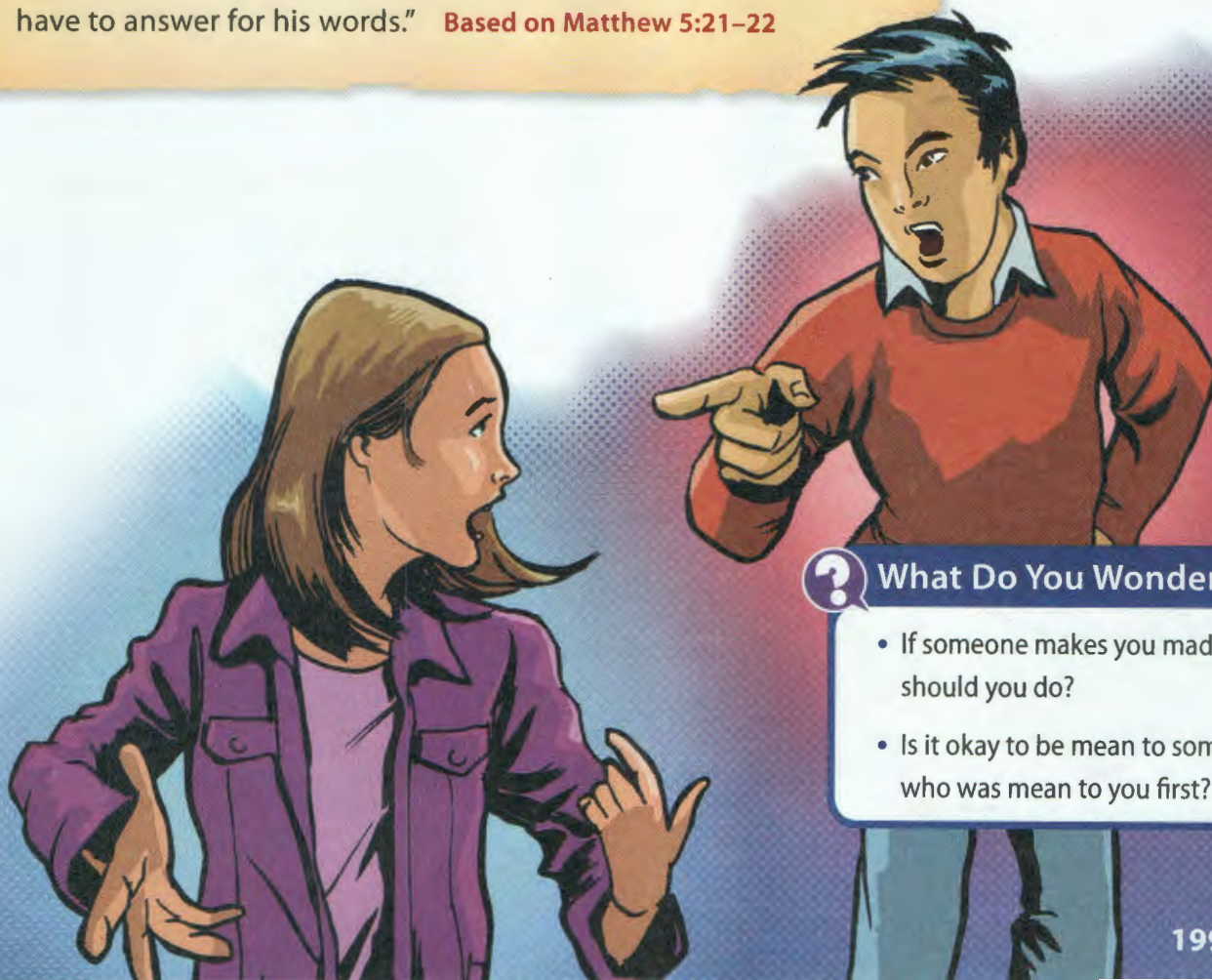
“For with you is the fountain of life,  
and in your light we see light.” **Psalm 36:10**

**All:** Brighten our lives with a great love of life and the courage to cherish and protect it. Amen.

## Scripture

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will have to answer for his actions.’ But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will have to answer for his actions, and whoever says anything mean will have to answer for his words.” **Based on Matthew 5:21–22**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- If someone makes you mad, what should you do?
- Is it okay to be mean to someone who was mean to you first?

## Catholic Faith Words

**sacred** worthy of reverence and devotion

# All Human Life is Sacred

## How do you respect life?

Sometimes we are unsure of people who look or talk differently than we do. And we may not know how to treat people who have illnesses or disabilities. But all people everywhere deserve respect. Here's the story of a woman who could not walk, but her life is an example for all of us.

## *Blessed Margaret of Castello*

Blessed Margaret of Castello could not see or walk. She had a big lump on her back and twisted arms and legs. Her parents were ashamed of her, so they shut her up in a room and left her all alone. Finally, some kind women took Margaret in with them. She lived the rest of her life helping people who were sick and dying. After she died, another girl who could not walk came to her funeral and was miraculously cured! Even though Blessed Margaret had many things wrong with her, she knew that every life is important and that we all can do something to help others.



Highlight how Blessed Margaret showed respect for others.



## Choose Life

All human life is **sacred**, worthy of reverence and devotion, and all actions that respect and protect life uphold the Fifth Commandment. At the end of his life, Moses told the people to remember that God's law was life for them.



### Scripture

#### The Choice

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you . . . **Deuteronomy 30:19–20**

God's laws show the path to life and happiness. The Fifth Commandment reminds us of the fundamental respect for life that is owed to every person. Every person is made in God's image and likeness, therefore every human life is sacred from the moment of conception until the time of death.

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Think about what the Fifth Commandment tells you. Unscramble the words below to fill in the sentence about what everyone deserves.

tcpsre      feil      dreasc

Every human \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_, and deserves  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Share** Then, talk with a partner about how you can follow the Fifth Commandment.



## Catholic Faith Words

**murder** the deliberate killing of another person when the killing is not in self-defense

# Protect and Respect

## How do you keep the Fifth Commandment?

All human life is sacred, including the life of the unborn and the elderly. The life of an unborn child is fragile, and it is deserving of the greatest respect and care. The intentional ending of the life of an unborn child is a grave sin.

The taking of one's own life is suicide. It is contrary to God's gift of life and love. However, one's responsibility may be lessened by certain factors. **Murder**, the intentional killing of an innocent person, is seriously sinful. To kill in self-defense, however, is justified, if it is the only way to protect one's own life.

The Catholic Church teaches that the death penalty, or capital punishment, is almost always wrong. Alternatives, such as life in prison without parole, are preferred.

## Respect for the Body

The Church teaches that your body and soul are united. You are a temple in which God's Spirit dwells. The Fifth Commandment teaches you to respect your body and those of others. Eating healthy foods and exercising are important to protect your life and health. At your age, using alcohol is an offense against the Fifth Commandment. The use of

tobacco and illegal drugs is harmful to the body. Tempting or encouraging others to disrespect the gift of life is wrong, too.



## Avoid Anger

Jesus said that anger can be sinful if it is not controlled. Anger can harden into hatred and lead to revenge, or getting back at someone, or to violence.

It can be difficult to show love and respect for those who bully or treat you unfairly. Jesus calls you to love in this way.

### Scripture

#### Love of Enemies

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." **Matthew 5:43-45**

➔ What did Jesus mean when he said that God makes his sun rise on the bad and the good?

### Connect Your Faith

**Choose Life** Fill in the missing letters in these examples of life-giving actions.

Protect unborn c    d   n.

Set a     example for others.

Forgive your e  e  ies.

**Think** of one life-giving action that you will practice today.



# Our Catholic Life

## How can you act in the spirit of the Fifth Commandment?

The Fifth Commandment may seem easy to follow. But as you have read, there is more to this Commandment than not killing. The Fifth Commandment also asks that you take care of and respect yourself and others.



1. Match the examples with the correct sentence ending.
2. Draw a star next to something you've done this week to follow the Fifth Commandment.

### Ways to Respect Life



but learn to compromise.

by learning to relax your body or by talking to someone you trust.

by treating younger children and babies with patience and kindness.

by getting to know someone who seems different.

that might lead you or others to be hurt.

with those who have hurt you.

from those whom you have hurt.

or make fun of others.

# People of Faith

April 28

## Saint Gianna Molla, 1922–1962

Saint Gianna Molla was a doctor who lived in Italy. She took care of babies and children and had four children of her own. Saint Gianna knew that the way to be happy is to give to others, especially your family. When she was pregnant with her last baby, she had a very dangerous operation. She knew that she might die if she had the surgery, but because she was generous with everything she had, she wanted to make sure she gave her baby the gift of life. She did die after the baby was born, but she was happy her baby lived.



**Discuss:** Whom do you know who chose life and lived the Fifth Commandment?



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

## Live Your Faith

**Write** a note to someone you have treated unfairly. In your note, explain one thing you will or would do differently because of what you've learned this week.





 Let Us Pray

## Celebration of the Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Reader 1:** A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Read 1 Peter 3:9–12.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader 2:** When we are given the choice to walk away or to stay and fight,

**All:** Help us choose your way, O Lord.

**Reader 3:** When we are given the chance to help people with illnesses or disabilities or an elderly person,

**All:** Help us choose your way, O Lord.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Christ, Our Light"

Christ, our Light, you taught us to love.

Christ, our Light, you're always with us.

Together we learn, together we grow,

together we walk in your way.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter is about respecting and protecting human life at all stages because life is a gift from God.*

### Scripture



Read **Matthew 5:21–22** to find out what Jesus teaches us about respecting one another.

### Catholics Believe

- All human life is sacred because it comes from God.
- The Fifth Commandment forbids anything that takes a human life.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2258, 2268–2269 at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Gianna Molla, who was willing to sacrifice her life for that of her unborn daughter.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Respect for Life** Respect for human life is foundational to Catholic teaching. Much discussion on this principle, both within the Church and in the public square, focuses on issues such as abortion and the death penalty. Fourth-graders might not yet be ready to confront these issues head on, due to their graphic nature, but respect for human life is also a broader principle that has implications in the everyday lives of children this age. Is there a child who is teased because he or she looks different? Are there times when children feel tempted to hit someone else out of anger? These questions are also relevant to respect for life.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*How does your family acknowledge and celebrate that each person's life is a gift from God?*

Family life is the perfect setting to celebrate each person's uniqueness. It is in the heart of family that we experience and appreciate that God creates each of us with imagination and love. As Catholics, we know that "God's creative action is present to every human life and is thus the source of its sacred value.... The Fifth Commandment calls us to foster the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of self and others" (*USCCA, p. 389*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to talk about how anger, teasing, and bullying relate to the Fifth Commandment.
- With your child, name ways we show respect for others and protect others and ourselves, including our bodies.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Gianna Molla, pray for us that we may be faithful to God's love and always choose the path of life and hope. 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 14 Review

**A Work with Words** Complete the following statements.

1. The Fifth Commandment says this: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Every human life is a gift from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. One serious sin against the Fifth Commandment is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. All human life is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Hatred can lead to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**B Check Understanding** Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.

6. One way to live the Fifth Commandment is to make \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Jesus said to love everyone, even your \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Tempting or encouraging others to disrespect the gift of life is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Jesus explained that uncontrolled \_\_\_\_\_ is against the Fifth Commandment.
10. Actions that \_\_\_\_\_ and protect life uphold the Fifth Commandment.

## Word Bank

peace  
anger  
wrong  
enemies  
respect

