

# GRIST

Diocese of New Ulm      Social Concerns Office      December, 2009

## Personal Identity, Dignity and Integrity

God calls each one by name.  
Everyone's name is sacred.  
The name is the icon of the person.  
It demands respect as a sign of the dignity  
    of the one who bears it.  
The name one receives  
    is a name for eternity.  
In the kingdom the mysterious  
    and unique character of each person  
    marked with God's name  
    will shine forth in splendor.  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*  
    (CCC) #2158-59

You know the name you were given;  
you do not know the name that you have.  
    – quoted in *All the Names*  
    by *Jose Saramago*

You are not in the state of your creation.  
    *Blaise Pascal*

One's real life  
is often the one that one does not lead.  
    *Oscar Wilde*

Each mortal thing does one thing  
    and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors  
    each one dwells;  
Selves – goes itself;  
    *myself* it speaks and spells,  
Crying *What I do is me: for that I came.*  
    *G. M. Hopkins*

God leaves us free to be whatever  
we like. We can be ourselves or not, as we  
please. We are at liberty to be real, or to be  
unreal. We may be true or false, the choice  
is ours. We may wear now one mask and  
now another, and never, if we so desire,  
appear with our own true face. But we  
cannot make these choices with impunity.  
Causes have effects, and if we lie to  
ourselves and to others, then we cannot  
expect to find truth and reality whenever we  
happen to want them. If we have chosen the  
way of falsity we must not be surprised that  
truth eludes us when we finally come to  
need it!  
    *Thomas Merton*

Nature warns us: it is better not to be at all  
than not to be what you are.  
    *Malcolm de Chazal*

Should Christ be born  
    a thousand times anew,  
Despair, O man,  
    unless he's born in you!  
    *Angelus Silesius*

The word of God! Give me back my Word,  
    the Judge will say on the last day.  
When you think what certain people  
    will have to unpack on that occasion,  
    it's no laughing matter.  
    *Georges Bernanos*

One's chief happiness is to be what one is.  
    *Erasmus*

Being in the image of God  
the human individual  
possesses the dignity of a person,  
who is not just something,  
but someone...  
capable of self-knowledge,  
of self-possession  
and of freely giving oneself  
and entering into communion  
with other persons.

*CCC #357*

God expects but one thing of you:  
that you let God be God in you.

*Meister Eckhart*

God's glory and our life  
depend on the hallowing of his name  
in us and by us. *CCC #2813*

It is a human being's goal to grow  
into the exact likeness of God.

*Plato*

The vocation of humanity  
is to show forth the image of God  
and to be transformed into the image  
of the Father's only Son.

This vocation takes a personal form  
since each of us is called  
to enter into the divine beatitude;  
it also concerns  
the human community as a whole.

*CCC #1877*

As a man is, so is his God.  
Therefore was God  
so often an object of mockery.

*Goethe*

If God created us in his own image,  
we have more than reciprocated.

*Voltaire*

Awaken in me my true image.

*Jacob Boehme*

The glory of God  
is a human being fully alive.

*St. Irenaeus*

Abraham was hospitable,  
and God was with him.

Elias loved quiet, and God was with him.  
David was humble, and God was with him.  
Find your soul's desire in following God.  
Do that, and keep your heart.

*St. Antony*

The elect live "in Christ,"  
but they retain, or rather find,  
their true identity, their own name.

*CCC #1025*

If we really knew what was  
important, if we truly understood what  
happiness is, we would, no matter what our  
place or station, slowly learn to embrace  
what matters in this life so that when we die  
our arms would be open to all the truth there  
is to know and all the good there is to love.  
Aside from considerations of unmerited  
grace, which might rescue us from our direst  
acts, our choices are the prime indicators of  
our destiny. Behavior matters – not because  
we are punished by a God eager for  
retribution, but because we actually become,  
eternally, what we have given ourselves to.

*John F. Kavanaugh, S.J.*

The soul lives by avoiding  
what it dies by affecting...

Love slays what we have been  
that we may be what we were not.

*St. Augustine*

When we are whom we are called to be,  
we will set the world ablaze.

*St. Catherine of Siena*