

1. Principle of the Dignity of the Human Person

Every human person is of equal and infinite dignity. All of society must be directed towards the well-being of the human person.

"What is man that you should care for him? You have made him little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet" (Ps. 8:5- 7). "If there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying:

You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Rom. 13:9-10)

Shamim is a foreign worker in Singapore. His employer only pays him one quarter of what a Singaporean would get for the same work. Shamim lives in a small, cramped, dormitory with twenty other workers. They work 13 hours a day in the hot sun as construction workers, with no days off to rest, whereas his employer gives Singaporeans days off.

- How would you feel if you were Shamim?
- What do you think can be done to improve the situation?
- Do you think we in Singapore are doing what God is asking of us to uphold the dignity of the human person? Why or why not?
- How can you help to uphold the dignity of the human person?

2. Principle of Association

Human persons are meant to be in community and have a right to freely associate with one another to achieve the common good.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

"So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:5)

The residents of Blocks 10 and 11 did not want the HDB to build facilities for the elderly at the void decks of their blocks, so they signed a petition requesting that the centres be shifted elsewhere. In another neighbourhood, residents did not want a day care centre for the elderly to be built at the void decks, because they claimed it would cause them emotional stress.

- How would you feel if you were one of the elderly?
- What do you think can be done to improve the situation?
- Do you think we in Singapore are doing what God is asking of us to uphold the principle of association? Why or why not?
- How can you help to uphold the principle of association?