

# Respect for Human Life

**Pray that every human life, from unborn babies to the very old, may be respected.**



Have you ever read the book *Horton Hears a Who*? Horton, an elephant, discovers a world full of people living on a tiny piece of dust. Some people don't believe Horton when he tells them about the people living on the dust speck, and they want to get rid of the dust. Horton helps others understand that a person is a person even if they are too small to be seen. "A person's a person, no matter how small." That's how God feels about each one of us.

Look at your fingers. There are seven billion people living on the earth, but each one of us has a unique set of fingerprints. No one on earth has fingerprints like you. Even identical twins have different fingerprints! It's just one of God's ways of showing us how special we are to him.

This month the Pope is asking us all to pray that people respect the life of every person, from babies who haven't even been born yet, to the very old and sick. Since we are all different we all play an important role in God's plans. Every moment of our lives is important to God. But just like some people in *Horton Hears a Who*, some people in our world don't understand how important each human being is.

Let's join with the Pope in praying that people all over the world, especially people who make laws, will understand how important each person is. We want everyone to learn that a person's a person, no matter how small.

## ***Think about it!***

- What makes you different from every other person in the world?
- Why are we all important to God?
- What can you do to help people learn to respect human lives?

# Respect for Human Life - *Fingerprints*

Fingerprints are marks made by ridges on the edge of our fingers. These ridges help us grip objects. Without them you wouldn't be able to pick anything up! The fingerprint ridges are different on every human being and they don't change as you get older. Fingerprints are important tools for helping solve crimes and finding lost people, because they can last for years on objects if they are not cleaned off. Fingerprints are almost like an "invisible ink" that police and scientists can decode with special tools.

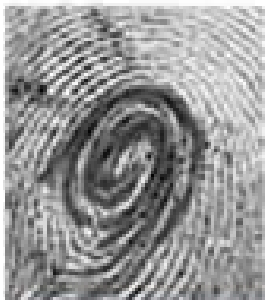
This activity will help you see your own prints and compare them to the prints of other members of your family. Do your fingerprints look like either of your parents'?

You will need:

- Washable Ink Pad
- Paper
- Magnifying Glass
- Pen or Pencil

Print the fingerprint sheets on the following page. Ask your mom or dad to help with this project so you don't get ink on the furniture or nice fabric. Starting with the pinky finger of the left hand, press each finger into the ink and touch it to the fingerprint sheet. (Experts roll each finger from left to right to get a more complete print). When you've gotten all ten of your fingerprints let the ink dry. Wash your hands carefully to remove all the ink! Get your mom, dad, brothers, and sisters to take their fingerprints too.

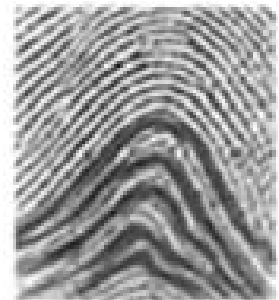
After your fingerprints are dry, use the magnifying glass to look at them closely. Here are some of the patterns you may see. If you see a pattern in your fingerprint, circle it with a pen or a pencil.



**WHORL**



**LOOP**



**ARCH**

Do your fingerprints look more like your mom's fingerprints, or your dad's? Do they look anything like your brothers' or sisters' prints?

<b>Name:</b>				
Left Pinky Finger	Left Ring Finger	Left Middle Finger	Left Pointer Finger	Left Thumb
Right Pinky Finger	Right Ring Finger	Right Middle Finger	Right Pointer Finger	Right Thumb

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<b>Name:</b>				
Left Pinky Finger	Left Ring Finger	Left Middle Finger	Left Pointer Finger	Left Thumb
Right Pinky Finger	Right Ring Finger	Right Middle Finger	Right Pointer Finger	Right Thumb