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## Reverence for all Human Life: Remembering Trayvon Martin

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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As we reflect on the promise, hope and renewal of Easter, the season of Lent continues to invite us to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus. As Jesus was in the process of being arrested for challenging the authority of the Jewish leaders of his day, the disciple named Matthew wrote: "And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear (Matthew 26:51)." Instead of encouraging and applauding this violent act, Jesus chose to heal the injured man (Luke 22:51). By reattaching the man's ear, Jesus was stating that we are all children of the living God. Through his actions, Jesus was making the case that we were all created in the Imago Dei, the Image of God. We are not God; however, God has put a spark of the divine in us. 1 Peter 1:16 echoes this point by saying: "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

The idea of the sacredness of the human personality has been championed by great Christians throughout salvation history. As I read various newspapers and entertain various television programs, I have arrived at the realization that everyone does not embrace this notion of the sacredness of the human personality. The record states that there has been no arrest for the killing of a teenager named Trayvon Martin whose primary crime was being African-American in an area that appears to have little interest in justice, racial cooperation or racial reconciliation. The record states that many children of African descent are being coerced into becoming child soldiers or even sex slaves throughout Africa as a dictator named Joseph Kony continues to promote killing in that section of the world. I'm beginning to realize that not everyone embraces this notion regarding a reverence for human life and the sacredness of the human person-

ality as I read about children working in sweat-shops in countries with few labor laws so that companies can maximize profits and consumers are able to purchase discounted articles of clothing. Unfortunately, everyone does not embrace this notion regarding a reverence for all human life as we learn that people are dying from AIDS and other diseases because they do not have the economic means to afford adequate health care which, in my opinion, should be provided to everyone.

As we continue to advocate for justice on behalf of those who have suffered and those who are suffering throughout the world, let us continue to have a reverence for all human life. Jesus reminds us that love (for God and for our neighbor) is the ethical norm by which our actions should be judged.