



## Catholic Anthropology

A Catholic anthropology provides a particular lens in which the Catholic faith views life.

A person's anthropology describes the worldview he or she may have, in particular, how they understand what it means to be a human person. This understanding will be shaped by their upbringing, life experiences and the culture in which they live. Throughout time and across cultures there are many examples of anthropology at work, in the treatment and mistreatment of human persons: from Adolf Hitler's Aryan superiority policies through to Angela Merkel's open migration policies. One's belief about human life will impact their behavioural choices.

Likewise a Catholic anthropology view of the human person is shaped by the person and teachings of Jesus and the rich tradition of the Church (*SEE Catholic Social Teaching*). At its heart, a Catholic anthropology honours and promotes the dignity of the human person who is **born in the image of God and grows in God's likeness**.

These are the two sides of the one coin. On one side, according to this anthropology, a person is created in love in the image of God, even before they were born:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."  
*Jeremiah 1:5.*

On the other side, the journey of faith for the believer is a continual journey travelling through the joys and griefs of life, being shaped and moulded into the likeness of God:

"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus." *Philippians 5:12*

A Catholic anthropological view of life shapes the way in which people live in community, relate to each other, and promote the common good through works for justice and peace.