

TOPIC: Moral Life; Human and Christian Freedom

OBJECTIVE: to make students more aware of the connection between freedom and responsibility.

MATERIALS: oak tag squares, string/yarn and markers.

BACKGROUND **Human Freedom**

God created man/woman a rational being, conferring on him/her the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions.

Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.

Freedom is exercised in relationships between human beings. Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect. *The right to the exercise of freedom*, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person. This right must be recognized and protected by civil authority within the limits of the common good and public order

from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Paulist Press, 1994

ACTIVITY: I. Write the word **FREEDOM** on the board. Have the student brainstorm definitions and write them on the board.

II. Cut the a sheet of oak tag into 4 equal squares - enough for one for each student. On half the number of sheet print the word **FREE**, leave the others blank. Punch a hole in the top of each board and attach a string loop that will fit around the students neck. Randomly pile the boards face down on the desk and have the students pick one out and put it on.

Explain to the class that they are now on the **Planet X** where different people have different privileges. Students who have blank boards must keep their hands in their pockets (or behind their backs). Students who have **FREE** on their boards may do anything they want (*WITHIN REASON!!!*) to themselves, the class environment, and/or the non-free students. **EXAMPLE:** rearrange clothing, write with markers on each others boards, etc. Please set specific limits. This activity can go for 10 - 20 minutes.