Topics	
The creation of humans in Genesis 1 and 2	
Imago Dei	
Artwork as an expression of Imago Dei	
St Vincent de Paul Society	
Equality of Women	
Dignity of the Human Body	
The Sacrament of Marriage	
The Rite of Marriage	
Annulment	
Dignity and pornography	
Dignity and genetic engineering	

Knowledge Organiser: Year 9 Unit 1: Creation and Covenant

Key words	IMAGO DEI – a Latin phrase meaning 'in the image of God'; the idea that humans reflect God's nature. INALIENABLE DIGNITY – the state of being worthy of respect which cannot be taken or given away RELATIONAL – the ability to have relationships RATIONAL – the ability to use reason VOLITIONAL – the ability to freely make choices SANCTITY OF LIFE – the belief human life is a holy gift from God. As God gives life, only God can take it away SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE – the sacrament in which a man and woman make the lasting commitment of marriage to each other and to God ANNULMENT – a declaration given by the Catholic Church which states a marriage bond never existed
Teacher assessed work	Written essay
Stretch and challenge	Watch the video and read the article: 'How Imago Dei changes everything' https://www.pursuegod.org/how-imago-dei-changes-everything-students/ Cave paintings: https://www.thecollector.com/most-important-cave-paintings-in-the-world/ History of the SVP: https://svp.org.uk/our-history Read the teachings in the CCC on marriage and annulment: https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/en/part_two/section_two/chapter_three/article_7/in_brief.index.html

Imago Dei in Genesis	Expressions of Imago Dei	Equality of Women and Dignity of the Human Body	Marriage and Annulment	Ethical issues regarding Dignity: Pornography and Genetic Engineering
While Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are both about creation, there are differences between the two stories. Many people suggest the stories were first retold between communities and orally passed down by ancestors. They were eventually written down by different people, so there are differences in the accounts. **Catholics read the Genesis accounts in the literal sense (not literally!) so it is important to consider the style and intention of the different authors.** - Genesis 1 describes God creating the world in 6 days and resting on the 7th. It is more formal and reads like a poem or hymn, with repeated phrases throughout. - Genesis 2 focuses on the creation of humans and details the creation of Adam from dust and Eve from Adam's rib. This author focuses God being human-like, known for his actions. The Genesis creation accounts make it clear that humans are created in a unique way to all other parts of creation. For Catholics, **being made in the image of God gives human life great value.** **All humans:** **Have inalienable dignity** - equal dignity which cannot be taken away. All humans are someone, not something. **Are relational** - created through love by God, so humans are called to reflect that love by expressing love to others. **Are volitional** - can choose to accept or reject God, do right or do wrong through their free will. **Are rational** - able to think in a reasoned and logical way. **Are stewards of life –** God is the true owner of life and humans are called to care for it responsibly. **Have sanctity of life** – all human life is holy so must be protected	**Artwork** Cave paintings tell us that even early humans created artwork. The CCC makes a connection between humans beings making imago dei and artwork. It states: • Art is a distinctly human activity • Art is inspired by truth and love so bears a likeness to God creating the world inspired by truth and love • Art is used by humans to express their relationship with God the creator • Art comes from the talent given by God • Art is a form of practical wisdom which expresses truth in an accessible way Catholics believe that people tell their story through art because they are made imago dei so their lives have meaning. **Charity** The SVP was founded in 1833 Paris, by a group of Catholic university students led by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. **The SVP is rooted in the Catholic belief that every person is made in the image of God and therefore deserves dignity, respect, and love. Their work is a practical expression of this belief.** The SVP operates in over 150 countries, with local groups (called "conferences") based in parishes, schools, and communities. Each group responds to the specific needs of their area. SVP volunteers offer a wide range of practical help and emotional support, including visiting the lonely or sick; providing food, clothing, and furniture; supporting refugees and the homeless	**Equality of Women** The Catholic Church teaches that men and women are equal since they are both made in the image of God, Although Genesis 2 states that man was made first, the Church teaches that this does not mean men are more important than women. Instead, it shows that they are meant to be companions, equal in dignity and purpose. The Catholic Church teaches that men and women are biologically and spiritually distinct, and that these differences are not inferior or superior, but complementary. Why Can't Women Be Priests? 1. Jesus choosing only male apostles. 2. The unbroken tradition of male priesthood. 3. The priest acting in persona Christi (in the person of Christ), who was male. This is not seen as a judgment on women's worth, but a matter of faithful obedience to Christ's example. **Dignity of the human body** St Paul wrote on the topic of sexual immorality to the early Christian Church in Corinth. Paul's Jewish background gave him scriptural authority, Roman citizenship offered legal protection and mobility, and being from Tarsus exposed him to Greek culture. These elements helped him widely spread Christianity. Corinthian culture accepted promiscuity, adultery and sexual exploitation at the time of St Paul writing. In 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, St Paul taught: • ***The human body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*** • Sex is more than just a way to satisfy the human body • When two people have sex they are spiritually and permanently joined • Sexual immorality is a sin against the body • We can choose to glorify or offend God with how we use our bodies	**Origins of marriage** Catholics believe that marriage existed before it became something celebrated within the Church. From the beginning, God created man and woman to be companions, to be unified with one another and to have children. Jesus turned marriage into a sacrament. In Mark 10:6-9 he said: *[6] But from the very beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' [7] 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, [8] and the two become one flesh.' And so they are no longer two but one flesh. [9] Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."* **Marriage as a sacrament means it is not just a commitment between the couple but a sacred covenant between the couple and God.** **The Marriage Rite** • Liturgy of the Word – Bible readings and a homily connected to love and marriage • Questions before consent – to ensure the couple understand the nature of Catholic marriage • Consent (vows) – the couple promise to love and support each other through life • Exchange of rings – a symbol of the couple's everlasting love Because marriage is understood as a covenant with God, it cannot be broken and therefore the Catholic Church does not allow divorce. Divorce is the legal separation of a married couple. This also means that remarriage is only accepted in the Church if a partner has died and the widow is remarrying. If a Catholic marriage is deemed to not have been valid at the time of the commitment, then it can be annulled- the marriage is declared null and void in this instance.	**Pornography** – sexually explicit, videos or texts that are created with the intention to sexually arouse. The Catholic Church teach pornography is wrong as it does not respect the dignity of the human person, with Pope St John Paul II saying: *'There is no dignity when the human dimension is eliminated. The problem with pornography is not that it shows too much of the person, but that it shows far too little'* The Church teaches that sex is a private and intimate thing between a couple in a faithful marriage. Its purpose is to unify and procreate, pornography is the extreme opposite. **Genetic engineering** - the direct manipulation of an organism's DNA. It allows scientists to add, remove, or alter genetic material to achieve desired traits, such as disease resistance or improved productivity. This technology is widely used in medicine, agriculture, and research to enhance biological functions and outcomes. The Catholic Church supports genetic engineering when used to treat or prevent serious diseases, as long as it respects human dignity and the sanctity of life. It opposes any use that alters human embryos or germline cells in ways that affect future generations, especially for non-medical reasons like creating "designer babies." The Church emphasizes that science must be guided by moral values, protecting the uniqueness of each person as created in God's image