Each one of us has a story -
- things we have done
- events that have shaped us
- dreams we have
- people that have been apart of our life

Each one of us also is a story -
- it is what separates us as individuals from one another
- it includes preferences, reactions, ways of interacting, thinking styles, & attitudes
- it is our way of responding to the world
- it is our personality

What is your definition of personality?
According to Webster's Dictionary:
- the quality or state of being a person
- the fact of being an individual person
- capacity for the choices, experiences, and liabilities of an individual person
- the complex characteristics that distinguishes a particular individual or characterizes that individual in relationship to others (Gove, ed., Webster's Third New International Dictionary, p. 1,687)

FOCUS
- Self-knowledge & Self-awareness
- Empowerment to make life decisions based on a true understanding of yourselves as made in the image of GOD
- Starting Point - goodness & unique character of each person

Why are we doing this?
- To see the goodness in all personality traits
- To strive for balance in ourselves amid conflicting cultural messages about what we should be like
- To have an understanding of personality characteristics and an appreciation for the value of differences so that we will have an attitude of acceptance for ourselves and others
- To live fully the challenge that Jesus posed to the Pharisees when they asked him which commandment of the law was the greatest: "You must love the Lord your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...You must love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

Cultural Connections
- Society sends conflicting, often confusing and sometimes harmful messages about such topics as success, service, winning and losing, and even the meaning of holiness
- Different cultures have defined what it means to be masculine or feminine, introverted or extroverted, right-brained, or left brained
- One set of personality characteristics is commonly more valued than another
- Worst offenders in perpetuating unbalanced stereotypes are the cultural institutions that appeal to teenagers - sports, magazines, music, tv/movies
- RESULT - distorted image of full personhood
- In today's world, the Church must include guidance in the critical evaluation of society's messages
- What's the point? - GOD'S message of unconditional love
Scriptures are filled with references to the holiness of life and the sacredness of the individual. The ministry of Jesus modeled one basic principle for the world, one that serves as the standard for all human interaction: **PERSONS ARE OF INFINITE WORTH**.

This principle is one of the fundamental beliefs of the Catholic faith and is clearly stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Being in the image of GOD, the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. The individual is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of...entering into communion with other persons" (no. 357).

The message in the Scriptures and in our tradition is clear, but too often it gets lost in developmental, cultural, and sociological realities. We are called to value and serve one another as if we were serving GOD.

In the Gospel of Matthew it says, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40).

To truly love and serve another person, one must understand that person and appreciate our common humanity. The belief that people are infinite worth is fundamental to living out the Gospel. GOD is a compassionate GOD who loves us because of - not in spite of - our humanness.