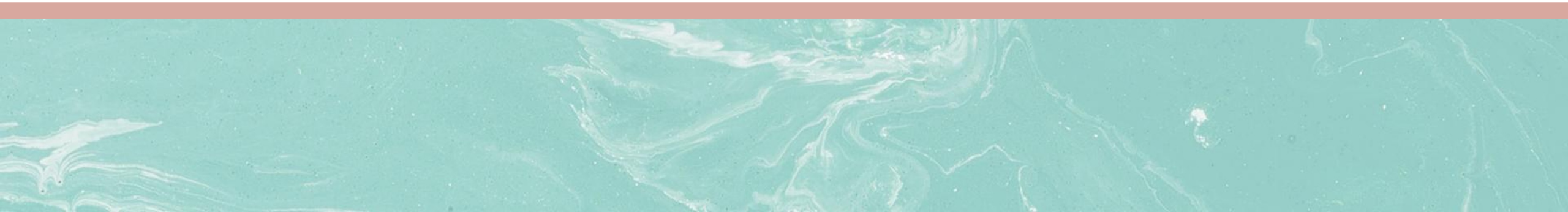




TEACHING HUMAN DIGNITY

Five-Step Case Study Analysis Method





The Five Steps are:

1. Issues
2. Perspectives
3. Knowledge
4. Actions
5. Consequences



Step #1: Issues

- What is going on here?
- What are the problems or issues?
- Where is there tension between individuals or groups?
- How are the issues different from each other?
 - Are some issues more or less important?
 - Are some more acute (e.g., short-term, intense, and attention grabbing)?
 - Are the issues chronic (e.g., long-term, ,serious, but less obvious)?
 - Are some root issues that cause others?
- What issues would you prioritize based on your understanding of the common good?



Step #2: Perspectives

- Who are the people involved in this case?
- What is important to each group or person involved? (i.e., what do they believe and value?)
- What do they consider most important?
- Are there issues of inherent dignity involved?
- Is there a group whose basic needs for human flourishing are not being met?



Step #3: Knowledge

- Based on what you have learned about the common good, what details in the case are important?
- List the critical attributes and explain how each one relates to the scenario.
- What more would you want to know about the situation presented in the case to make the best decision?
- Is there additional information from research or other sources that would equip you to propose more powerful actions for addressing the situation in the case? If so, what?



Step #4: Actions

- What do you think should be done to improve the situation?
- Why do you think so? What justifications do you have based on your understanding of the common good?



Step #5: Consequences

- Given the proposal, what are the potential outcomes?
- How does the proposed action achieve the common good?
- What might be some challenges?

The McGrath Institute for Church Life partners with Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools to address pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor. By connecting the Catholic intellectual life to the life of the Church, we form faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and the world.



mcgrath.nd.edu