

## Thoughts on “Life”

by Maurice Lange 7/1/22

Following the recent action of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe vs. Wade*, some leading politicians in support of this decision proclaimed that it was a victory for “life”. That got me to thinking that the word “life” ...the wholistic concept of “life” ... is not what our politics is basically grounded in. The term “life” seems to merely pop up from politicians when it is politically convenient.

I think of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin and his **consistent ethic of life**. “*Cardinal Bernardin argued, in those years following Roe v. Wade, that human life always is valuable and it must be respected consistently from conception to natural death. Being pro-life is not only about abortion. It must encompass war, poverty, access to health care, education and anything that threatens a human life or human well-being.*” From [Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin’s consistent ethic of life - The Catholic Sun](#)

“...and anything that threatens a human life or human well-being” --- being pro-life then encompasses threats to life that certainly include scandalous **gun policy**, unjust **immigration policy** and **climate change**.

A scant few miles from where I live in Castroville, Texas, we have experienced, within the last days and weeks *a lot of death*: innocent children and adults have been threatened and killed by *both* scandalous **gun policy** (*21 students and teachers at Robb elementary school in Uvalde*) and an unjust **immigration policy** (*53 migrants dead in a trailer in San Antonio*).

At this same time and in this same place: **climate change**. In the recent season of Spring and now just 9 days into Summer, 2022: we have experienced **35** days of 100 degrees or higher.

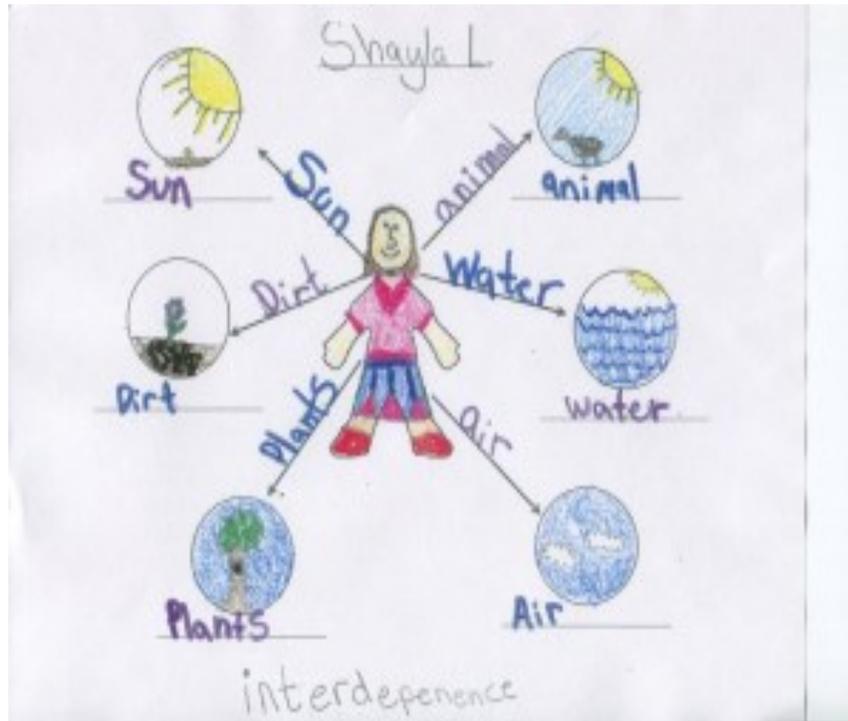
What are you experiencing?

Where, in your area, do you see threats to life?

We are in desperate need for a *holistic* sense of **life**: we can only live because of countless other creatures that we are in community with.

(Thoughts on “Life” continues next page>)

We need to ground ourselves into the reality that we (and every other creature) **live** as part of one **interdependent** planetary ecosystem. As humans we can't take our next breath without this community of life.



*(see image credit below)*

We also cannot continue to take without giving back. We can't continue to objectify the air, water and land and use them as our dumping grounds.

How might we come to see **life** in all its connectedness, and not merely use it as a soundbite?

How might we live more simply, so that others may simply **live**?

**Image credit:** Let's move from celebrating independence to **interdependence!**

Please read Nancy Hardy's article at:

[The Moral Journey from Independence to Interdependence - NC Interfaith Power & Light \(ncipl.org\)](https://www.ncipl.org/2020/09/01/the-moral-journey-from-independence-to-interdependence/)