

Culture of Life Ministry Corner

What is Restorative Justice?



Restorative Justice understands crime in terms of people and relationships that were harmed, rather than the law that was broken. It is deeply rooted in human dignity, relationship healing, accountability, and encounter. Restorative justice is consistent with Catholic Social Teaching.

When a crime happens, our legal system asks: What law was broken? Who is guilty? How should they be punished? Restorative Justice asks a different set of questions: What was the harm? Who has been harmed?

What are the needs? Whose obligations are there? What should be done to put things right? The key aspects of restorative justice focus on relationships, dignity, accountability, healing, community engagement, systemic change, rehabilitation, and spiritual healing.

In truth, we are not going to incarcerate our way out of the crimes committed. Restorative Justice is about restoring our community and healing together. To learn more about restorative justice, visit the Diocese of San Diego Life, [Peace and Justice webpage](#) or the USCCB webpage on [Restorative Justice](#).