

A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM A NEWBORN BABY
Dula'-Dula' Ta

Hí

I am Genesis Rose and I have just opened my eyes to the world. I have been preparing myself for this moment taking shape little by little. My mommy and my Dad wanted to see me already and here I am! Isn't it exciting?

Thank you for coming to see me, I am beautiful, am I not?. One day I hope to know you personally if life gives us the opportunity to meet. What is your name? I'd like to call you by name.

You know? I have a message for you. Together with all babies who arrive into this world every day I want to become a symbol of life, the sign that life always becomes victorious. When I was in my mother's womb I heard of serious problems in this world and I am worried because I am only starting my life. It was so nice and warm inside there.

May I ask you a favor? Could you help me to build a better world for all babies who are arriving into this world? Better than the one you found when you were a baby, too.

I would like to see a whale in a clean bay and to see an eagle freely crossing the skies. The Zoo is a nice place but nature is more beautiful, right?

When my mommy was watching the news, sometimes I kicked her as I wanted to tell her: Can't you all live in peace? When I am a little bigger I want to walk alone and go to the park to play and enjoy with Lyndon, Ronin, Krishna, Ines, Ming-Zhu, Marcelo that are also little ones just like me. Can you help me?

And one more thing: My mother and the doctors have heard me crying... because sometimes I am hungry. But I do not want hear people crying because they don't have what they need for life knowing that some other people have so many things, and money that they don't even use ! You, the grown-ups are very intelligent and can find solutions for everything, can't you?

Can you teach me how to build a better world? One day I hope to go to school and learn many things but I also want to learn from your example. I hope I am not asking something so difficult.

Please accompany me along the path of my life. I would like you to become my usher in life. I want to learn that the most important thing in life is to be happy and to follow the plan of life written for nature and for all of us.

Can I hold your hand? Can you teach me how to walk and live looking for what is really important in life? In the heart of God there are nice feelings, like love, life and God's desire is that we all live in harmony and peace. Kisses to all!

And when I am a grown up I really want to become someone who really cares about the future of this world. We can do it, can't we?

Ah! I almost forgot! Thanks to all people that make the triumph of life possible. Thanks to the people who assisted my birth... thank you to doctors, to scientists, to volunteers who are trying to leave to the coming generations a better world than the one they received.

Génesis Rose Díaz B.

Ah! "Dula-Dula ta" means "Let us play" in Cebuano, the language of my Filipino grandmother. Can we play the game of life fairly?

Place here the
picture of a new
born baby

NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS:

The letter from a Newborn Baby has the intention to create in the reader (specially young generations) the desire to improve the world.

Originally it was the letter that a couple wrote and gave to the people who went to meet the little girl for the first time.

Probably it is worth to think at a personal and group level what initiatives we can promote in the school, the family, in our society so that we will leave a better world than the one we received some years ago from previous generations when we were also newborn babies.

WITH GENESIS ROSE TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

Read the letter together with the students or with the family and share:

- What do you think about this letter?
- If in reality a newborn baby would be able to talk, what would he/she say about the world?

The sharing can be done according to the age of participants.

- What do you like of this world? What do you not like? What can we do to improve the situation in our family, in society, in the world?

Research and find at least two people who are doing something in order to improve the world. Who are they? What are they doing? Are there other people who do not support them or are fighting against them? Why?

- En el mundo también hay muchas cosas bellas: ¿Quién las hace? ¿Cómo le hace? ¿Qué buenas noticias tenemos en el mundo?

TO CONTINUE THE ACTIVITY:

- If you were a newborn baby today, what message would you convey to others? What would you say?
- That means, what would you like to see in the world? How can we improve in our environment so that life will triumph?

- Identify two or three things in our world, in your life that are not worth keeping and that are wasting our time, damaging the environment or making people fight. Can we eliminate them? How?

- In the world some kids have all that they need and even more, and some others do not have even food to eat or a peaceful and safe place where to live. Why? What can I do so that everybody will have what is needed for life?

TO CONCLUDE THE ACTIVITY:

Write a letter to Genesis Rose or address it to a little kid you know.

You may include in your letter a nice word for your mother, father and/or whoever allowed your coming into this world.

Express in two or three sentences two or three concrete actions that you can do to better the world. What can other people with more responsibilities in family, society do?

Finally, share with the group: how do you feel, what do you think about this exercise?

“We have not received the world as an inheritance from our elders,
we are borrowing it from our kids.”

TO DEEPEN: THINK AND READ ABOUT INTERGENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Our responsibility does not end in having a nice life. We are also responsible for generations to come and this is called intergenerational responsibility.

TEXTS FROM POPE FRANCIS:

The Encyclica *Laudato si'* offers many insights and direct texts regarding intergenerational responsibility.

Two of them are presented here, but you can consult the document and many other sources to enhance the view and motivate yourself and the students:

95. The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others. That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shall not kill" means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive". (*Laudato si'*)

V. JUSTICE BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS

159. The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. The Portuguese bishops have called upon us to acknowledge this obligation of justice: "The environment is part of a logic of receptivity. It is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next".^[124] An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision.

160. What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal. When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. Unless we struggle with these deeper issues, I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results. But if these issues are courageously faced, we are led inexorably to ask other pointed questions: What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. (*Laudato si'*)

See also numbers: 22, 53, 67, 109... in the document *Laudato si'*.