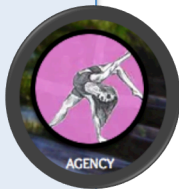




Leading Causes of Life (Summary of the Five Causes)

Agency



The capacity to act intentionally in the world — our ‘creative freedom’ — and our moral awareness of our responsibility for what we do and why, marks our human spirit and is a central cause of life. Inalienable and universal—the possession of each and every human being — it is the “worth” of our dignity that “has no price.”

Coherence



Coherence is how we make sense of life, how we order an otherwise overwhelming confusion of experience of nature and of ourselves in seeing our life journey as intelligible and neither wholly random nor simply victim to inexplicable forces.

Connection



As human beings we find life through complex social relationships and connections to one another, building communities of various kinds that enable us to adapt to changing threats and opportunities.

Intergenerativity/Blessing



When our lives are blessed and nurtured by those who come before and after us, we are encouraged, strengthened, enlivened and better able to shape our own lives, to make vital choices. Active blessing means bestowing upon another approval or praise — affirming their sacredness as person — wishing them well.

Hope



Hope in the deepest sense is not optimism or wishful thinking: it is about our capacity to imagine a different, healthier future and to find the energy to do something to bring it about.