



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry / Office of Family & Faith Formation

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August 31, 2020

Dear Parish Coordinators and Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministry:

Hope you are all doing well and staying safe in this uncertain and challenging time.

I'm writing to ask your help with an important initiative for Respect Life month in October with which the Bishop has asked us to collaborate.

The Bishop is releasing a new Four-part Plan for Respect Life Ministry today which calls for close collaboration between faith formation, youth ministry, respect life, and social concerns ministry. One of its initiatives involves ensuring that our children are presented with the Catholic teaching & perspective on their sexuality and the meaning of marriage & family.

With the support of the pastor, Faith Formation Coordinators, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leaders, Social Concerns Committees and Respect Life Committees in each parish are encouraged to work together this year as a team to inform parents of children who attend public schools of their rights to:

- review the sexual education curriculum offered in public schools before it is presented, and
- to opt their children out of the presentation of this material

We also want to make sure that parents understand the Church's teaching on love, sex marriage, and procreation so they are empowered to share this good news with their children.

We are asking the following:

- Faith formation leaders, youth & young adult ministry leaders, respect life leaders, and social concerns leaders meet to discuss this issue and form a team under the direction of the pastor.
- This team familiarizes themselves with the resources available for parents to use to teach this material at home from a Catholic perspective from the Diocesan website: www.scd.org/loveandliberty
- This team researches the process in each school district within the parish boundaries for parents to review and opt out of sexual education sessions if they choose to do so.
- That this team posts this information on the parish website, advertises on parish social media and emails or physically mails the information to all parish families (in particular, the faith formation and youth ministry families)
- The team helps us to advertise workshops in October and November on Theology of the Body for Parents that will be offered by the Diocese of Sacramento in English and Spanish and by Radio Santissimo in Spanish.
- The team would consider offering a workshop in their parish that presents the church's teaching on marriage and sex for parents or for parents and teens together.

The website will be updated and more information will be mailed out in the Weekly News over the next couple weeks to assist you in this process. Thank you in advance for your help on this important initiative. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 916-733-0152.

Yours In Christ,

Deacon Kevin Staszko
Director