



June 30, 2017

Dear Catholic Elementary and High School Principals,

We would like to share with you some decisions we have made in consultation with the staffs of the Office of Religious Education, the Respect Life Office, and the Office of Catholic Schools. The decisions relate to the teaching of the *Theology of the Body for Teens*. These changes will take place beginning January 2018

We ask that in compliance with the new High School Curriculum guidelines, *Theology of the Body* be taught on two levels, 8th grade and 10th grade. Please use the *Theology of the Body for Teens* Middle School Edition for the 8th and for the 10th grade, please use the new *Theology of the Body, YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body*. Because of the comprehensive material covered in the *Theology of the Body*, we request no other chaste living materials be used. In order to teach Theology of the Body remember teachers have to be certified through the Respect Life Office. For more information, please call Ms. Debbie Shinskie at 504-286-1119.

We also ask the *Theology of the Body for Teens, Middle School Edition*, be taught in 6th grade. Again, due to the material covered we request no other chaste living program be taught in the 6th grade. As mentioned above, teachers should be certified through the Respect Life Office prior to teaching this material. *Teaching Theology of the Body for Teens, Middle School Edition* in both 6th and 8th grade assures us that students who may not have been in a Catholic elementary school will get the teaching in 8th grade and elementary school students who do not go on to a Catholic High School will get introduced to it in 6th grade. Schools may spend up to four weeks teaching this curriculum in 6th grade.

Approved Family Life series that are found on the USCCB conformity list may be used with grades K-5 for up to four weeks in an academic year.

The Respect Life Office offers the opportunity for those certified in the middle school edition to receive certification in YOU (the high school edition) through an online certification program, and those certified in the high school edition online certification for the middle school edition. Please contact Debbie Shinskie for more information about this certification process.

Thank you for your ministry in helping our children appreciate the gift of life God has given to us and to respond to His call to respect life. The "Theology of the Body" by Pope John Paul II is truly inspiring. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mrs. Debbie Shinskie, Director
Archdiocesan Respect Life Office

Dr. RaeNell Houston, Superintendent
Office of Catholic Schools

Dr. Alice Hughes, Director
Office of Religious Education

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans