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ARCHDIOCESE of OMAHA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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June 1, 2017

Dear Father,

Over a year ago, I formed an ad-hoc committee to explore how best to form parents and young people in the Church's rich understanding of human love and sexuality. The ongoing work of the Human Sexuality Formation (HSF) Committee has progressed to the point that recommendations have been made. The piloting of programs and implementation of particular resources will soon be possible within our parishes and schools. The committee includes a broad spectrum of people throughout the Archdiocese, parents, grandparents, priests, deacons, and professionals from the fields of education and medicine. All are actively involved in parish life with a particular interest in this area of formation which is so foundational to our understanding of the dignity of the human person and living as a son or daughter of the Father.

The committee has been especially attentive to the needs of parents who are called to be their child's first educators. As you know there cannot be a one size fits all approach to this important formation. However, given the expressed need from families for assistance from the Church, the Committee has selected some basic materials that can be adapted for various settings throughout the diocese, rural and urban, in order that piloting and implementation can begin this coming Fall.

Members of the HSF Committee will be contacting as many priests as possible during the summer to update you on their work. I encourage you to ask questions, and share ideas and names of parish leaders who are particularly interested or already involved in this type of formation. Then the Committee can work to build a team to promote the piloting and implementation of resources this coming Fall.

Below are the resources recommended by the HSF Committee for this first phase of piloting and implementation. If you would like more immediate information on the work of the Committee and these resources, you are welcome to contact Kathie McGee, Committee Chairperson, at kathiemcgee@skuttcatholic.com.

Thank you for your interest and support for this important work of formation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha

Recommended Resources

1. **Program/Resource:** LoveED, by Colleen Kelly Mast, St Benedict Press, 2017
Description: Family based chastity education program consisting of 5 unique seminars that can be held in the parish or home
Age Groups: Parents, Parents and 9-11 yr olds, Parents and 12-14 yr olds, in Mother/Daughter or Father/Son groupings
Training/Pilot: Bring Colleen Kelly Mast to Archdiocese early fall, 2017, availability based upon program and parent book publish date. While here, Mrs Mast will conduct a Facilitator training and a Parent Seminar.
2. **Program/Resource:** Our Power to Love: God's Gift of our Sexuality, booklet by Ann Nerbun, Ruth Taylor and Fr Richard Hogan, published by Family Honor
Description: Our Power to Love is an easy to use resource for parents to talk with their children about the physiological, spiritual, and psychological aspects of human sexuality. The booklet simply and directly teaches the biological features of male and female in the reverent and loving framework of Saint Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.
Age Groups: Parents and their children
Training/Pilot: CFLF will purchase booklets and make them available, with a brief user's guide, at a nominal fee to any parish or group interested. Suggestions include giving to couples in marriage prep, parents attending baptismal and other sacramental prep programs, etc.
3. **Program/Resource:** Called to be More, Theology of the Body curriculum for grades K-12, Ruah Woods Press, 2016
Age Groups: Grades K-12, some grade level materials are still being written.
Training/Pilot: Archdiocese/committee will host a training for schools who pilot.
4. **Other action items:**
 - a. HSF Committee will make and distribute a list of reviewed/suggested programs/resources (Teen STAR, YOU, Theology of the Body for Middle Schoolers, etc)
 - b. HSF Committee members will continue to invite information from parishes and schools on already implemented programs/resources as well as continuing to research developing programs/resources as they become available.