



Diocese of Austin

Pastoral Center
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Catechist Qualifications in Regard to Formation in Chaste Living

All presenters and teachers on the subjects of human sexuality and chaste living within the Diocese of Austin must be approved according to the following guidelines. This applies to all volunteers and staff at the Diocese of Austin or at parishes within the Diocese of Austin. Guest presenters originating from outside the Diocese of Austin should continue to follow the guest speaker approval process.

According to the Diocese of Austin Ethics and Integrity in Ministry policies, all clergy and paid staff, and all adult volunteers working with youth and vulnerable adults, at any parish or diocesan location, are required to complete an Application for Ministry and are required to attend an Ethics and Integrity in Ministry workshop every three years.

Any adult parishioner or staff, with Pastor approval, may utilize diocesan-approved resources (attached) to facilitate a study or discussion group on the topic of chaste living or Theology of the Body. The facilitator of the study group shall act only as a group facilitator and not as a teacher unless given approval from the Diocese to do so. For example, the adult facilitator may share testimony but not teach a class or give a talk on the subject of human sexuality or chaste living.

It is vital that anyone who is teaching a class or giving a presentation on the subjects of human sexuality and chaste living have a comprehensive understanding of the Church's teaching on these subjects as well as an understanding of pastoral ministry. Persons who have completed the Diocesan Catechesis on Human Love Certification may offer catechesis on the subjects of chaste living and human sexuality. In addition, presenters and teachers may be approved by the Diocese of Austin on a per-event basis through the Office of Family Life, without having completed the Diocesan Catechesis on Human Love Certification. For general catechesis, catechists and Catholic school teachers should consult the Ministry of Catechesis Certification Handbook for required courses.

Youth, young adults, and adults may give non-catechetical testimony in the context of a teaching or presentation by an approved presenter or approved resource. Testimony should be appropriate to the age of the audience and should not disclose the faults of another. Testimony should not give details of immoral behavior or give scandal. Testimony should not run contrary to Church teaching, but should be clear as to what moral actions are right and wrong. "Immoral conduct is conduct contrary to the discipline and teachings of the Catholic Church and which may result in scandal to the faithful or harm to the ministry of the Catholic Church. Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. Scandal damages virtue and integrity. It is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2284; *Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Austin*, 5th Edition, p. 9). The person sharing his or her testimony should be well prepared to do so.

“When in the presence of minors, those that serve in the Diocese are prohibited from... engaging in any sexually oriented conversations with minors unless the conversations are part of a legitimate lesson and discussion for teenagers regarding human sexuality issues (On such occasions, the lessons will convey to youth the Church’s teachings on these topics. If youth have further questions not answered or addressed by their individual teachers, they should be referred to their parents or guardians for clarification or counseling.)” (*Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Austin*, 5th Edition, p. 19)

All parish staff and volunteers are asked to act with prudence, especially in regard to these topics. Both children and adults have serious and pressing questions regarding these issues that should not go unaddressed or ignored. If a question is raised, please ensure that it is answered with care and full truth, even if it means deferring to your pastor to answer. Be honest regarding what you do not know and seek out the appropriate answer.

Any parish seeking to offer a class or course on human sexuality or chaste living may contact the Diocese of Austin Office of Family Life in order to find an approved presenter or teacher. Contact the Office if you are interested in the Catechesis on Human Love Certification or if you need to be approved on a per-event basis to teach a class or give a talk on these subjects.

Everyone should remember that “The Church has always affirmed that parents have the duty and the right to be the first and the principal educators of their children” (*Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*, 5). All sessions that focus on human sexuality or chastity should be open to parents and parents should be notified of the subject matter ahead of time. Parishes and schools are encouraged to find ways to facilitate the parent's guidance of their children through providing parents with appropriate resources, hosting sessions for parents on this topic and considering formats that involve parents and children together in discussion about issues related to chastity. All presenters, catechists and teachers should also be mindful of the age-appropriateness of the material that is presented, based on *Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*, a document from the Pontifical Council for the Family, and the Diocese of Austin Religious Education Guidelines section on Chaste Living.

Resources

- [Ministry of Catechesis Certification](#) Handbook
 - Contact: Office of Religious Education and Formation at (512) 949-2461
- [Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry](#), *Catholic Diocese of Austin*, 5th Edition
 - Contact: Ethics and Integrity in Ministry at (512) 949-2447
- Religious Education Guidelines, section on Chaste Living
 - Contact: Office of Religious Education and Formation at (512) 949-2461
- [Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality](#), Pontifical Council for the Family, 1995

Approved Resources

For study groups on human sexuality, chaste living and Theology of the Body

Curriculums:

1. *Family Life* – RCL-Benziger, for grades K-8.
Includes catechist manual, student book and a family resource supplement.
2. *Catholic Vision of Love* – Our Sunday Visitor, for grades 5-8.
Includes catechist and student manual. No parent supplement.
3. *Life, Love, and the Pursuit of Happiness* – Life Teen, for grades 9-12
Includes leader's guide and accompanying parent curriculum.
Teaching video is available for "Homosexuality" Life Night.
4. *Theology of the Body for Teens: Middle School Edition* – Ascension Press, for grades 6-8.
Includes leader's guide, student workbook and parent's guide.
5. *Theology of the Body for Teens* – Ascension Press, for grades 9-12.
Includes leader's guide, student workbook and *parent's guide.

Resources with Accompanying Discussion Guides:

DVDs with Workbook

1. *The Gift: Your Call to Greatness* – Ascension Press
2. *An Introduction to the Theology of the Body* – Ascension Press
3. *Into the Heart: A Journey Through the Theology of the Body* – Ascension Press
4. *Freedom to Love* – Ascension Press

Books

1. *Called to Love* – Carl Anderson & Jose Granados
Accompanying Discussion Guide by Stratford Caldecott & Ruth Ashfield can be found at
http://www.centerforculturalandpastoralresearch.org/files/001_20110414_Study_Guide.Clld2Lv.pdf
2. *God's Plan for You* – David Hajduk
3. *Men, Woman and the Mystery of Love* – Dr. Edward Sri
4. *The Body Reveals God* – Katrina J. Zeno

Resources without Accompanying Discussion Guides:

CDs

1. *The Chastity Talk* – Jason Evert
2. *The Dos and Don'ts of Dating* – Jason Evert
3. *Finding Love in a World of Lust* – Jason Evert
4. *From Top Model to Role Model* – Leah Darrow
5. *How to Talk to Teens about Chastity* – Jason Evert
6. *Life-Giving Love: Understanding Chastity in Marriage* – Jason Evert
7. *Never Too Late* – Crystalina Evert
8. *Taking Down Goliath* – Matt Fradd

DVDs

9. *Life-Giving Love: Understanding Chastity in Marriage* – Jason Evert
10. *Romance without Regret* – Jason Evert
11. *Straight Talk about Sex* – Ascension Press
12. *The Gift of the Body: An Introduction to the Theology of the Body for Teens* – Our Father's Will Communications
13. *Winning the Battle for Sexual Purity* – Ascension Press
14. *Woman: God's Masterpiece* – Ascension Press

Books

1. *Finding Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul* – Jason and Crystalina Evert
2. **Good News about Sex and Marriage* – Christopher West
3. *The Human Person: According to John Paul II* – Rev. J. Brian Bransfield
4. *If You Really Loved Me* – Jason Evert
5. *The Love That Satisfies* – Christopher West
6. *Parent Guide to Human Sexuality (ages 5-10)* – Archdiocese of New York
7. *Parent Guide to Human Sexuality (ages 9-14)* – Archdiocese of New York
8. *Parent Guide to Human Sexuality (ages 13-19)* – Archdiocese of New York
9. *Pure Intimacy* – Jason Evert
10. **Pure Love* – Jason Evert
11. **Pure Manhood* – Jason Evert
12. **Pure Womanhood* – Crystalina Evert
13. *Raising Pure Teens* – Jason Evert & Chris Stefanick
14. *The Theology of the Body Made Simple* – Anthony Percy
15. *Theology of Her Body/Theology of His Body* – Jason Evert
16. *Theology of the Body for Beginners* – Christopher West

Resources are listed because they provide quality content. Unless the group facilitator is otherwise qualified, the resources should provide the only content in regard to human sexuality.

*Available in Spanish

Suggestions for resources to be added to this list are welcome.