



August 1, 2012

To: Pastors, Business Administrators, Directors of Religious Education

From: Bishop John Noonan 

Re: Safe Environment

Peace of the Lord be with you! I hope you were able to enjoy some respite this summer. I write because we are expanding our Safe Environment Programs to better serve our Catholic community. I am grateful to you for your participation in creating a safe environment for all God's people.

For years, our religious education students participated in whatever safe environment program was presented to them at their public school. Many of you know that we have struggled with this lack of opportunity from our Catholic faith perspective and the obstacles of time and training. After great discernment and discussion with many consultors, I introduce LIFE (Love, Infatuation, Friendship and Exploitation) Plus for our Religious Education students.

Beginning this school year, our parishes will be required to offer LIFE Plus, a faith-based, family-centered curriculum designed to serve two purposes: safe environment awareness as well as chastity, values, and virtues education. The age specific groups are Pre K - K, Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. All materials for this program are computer generated and require only one evening session, with parents and children together, for each age group. The cost of the program is \$145 per parish each year.

The implementation of LIFE Plus offers the unique opportunity to build community and expand parish catechetical teams. I encourage you to seek out parishioner(s) with specific skills, such as a teacher, nurse, or law enforcement person, who is comfortable presenting topics of positive human sexuality. For parishes not already involved in intergenerational catechesis, LIFE is a great beginning. For those already utilizing this model, it offers many topics with which to engage families.

Sr. Kieran Sawyer, SSND, the author of LIFE Plus, has agreed to offer an age specific training with your designated facilitator(s). Training will be at San Pedro Spiritual Center from 8 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on:

- Pre K through fourth grades: Tuesday, October 9
- Fifth through twelfth grades: Wednesday, October 10

Please RSVP the name(s) of your attendees to Christine Shields, cshields@orlandodiocese.org. Sister Sawyer will also create a webinar addressing the theology of the program, and I recommend that you preview it.

If you have any questions, please call Heidi Peckham at 407-246-4866.

May we never grow weary of doing what is right.

Coming soon! Our Catholic school students will receive an updated safe environment curriculum which teaches and promotes Catholic values and helps them develop skills to keep them safe in today's world. Our high school students will receive newly available, age-appropriate materials to assist in their ongoing faith formation and increase their awareness of safe environment.