



CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE

DIRECTIONS FOR THE CVOL HOME STUDY MODEL

Dear Parents of Fifth Graders,

Thank you for taking the time **to complete this CVOL material with your fifth grade student.** If you are like most Catholic parents, you want your child to have a healthy understanding of relationships and sexuality as positive aspects of life — powerful and sacred gifts from God that build loving families and offer deeper understanding of Christ's love.

The Catholic Vision of Love (CVOL) program was designed by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh to support parents by conveying God's beautiful plan for human love, relationships and sexuality in a convincing and developmentally appropriate manner.

Is your Child Ready to Learn About This? While it may seem that some fifth grade students are too young and physically immature to worry about sexuality, the fact is that they are already bombarded with distorted messages about their sexuality — and they are quietly absorbing it all! Television programs, the Internet, CDs, magazines, and conversations with friends — and even some public school health classes — are packed with words and images that encourage sexual behaviors and/or attitudes that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus.

The CVOL Material is divided into four sections/classes. We have included the **Catechist Notes** for your convenience. It would be best to review these notes before beginning the student lessons with your child.

The **Catechist Notes** sections are on the parish website, and in them you will see references to the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. If you do not have a copy of the Catechism in your home, copies are available at St. John Neumann. You are welcome to check one out to use while you complete this curriculum.

The Catechism is also available on-line for free (<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/cc.html>).

Students should complete all of the **Student Lessons** pages. We strongly encourage the parent/guardian to review these pages with their child so they get all that they can from the material. Most of these sections lend themselves to interesting discussions!

Because this program is required by the Diocese of Pittsburgh, we ask that you and your child complete the form found at the end of the four lessons and mail the form to the SJN Religious Education Office. Your child will then receive credit for completing CVOL for the current year.

If you have any questions/concerns about the material, please contact Barbara Matera or Barbara Stokes at 412-366-5885.

We applaud you for spending this quality time with your child. We pray that it will be a very enriching experience for both of you.

Barbara Matera and Barbara Stokes
Director for Religious Education

Fr. Albin McGinnis
Pastor