



CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE

DIRECTIONS FOR THE CVOL HOME STUDY MODEL

Dear Parents of Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders,

Thank you for taking the time **to complete this CVOL material with your middle school student**. If you are like most Catholic parents, you want your child to have a healthy understanding of sexuality as a very positive thing — a powerful and sacred gift from God that (when used responsibly) builds loving families and offers a 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 and sexuality in a convincing and developmentally appropriate manner. It is important to note that the topic of sexuality will not be covered in any other classes or events for middle school students.

Is your Child Ready to Learn About This? While it may seem that some middle school 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.

Throughout the **Catechist Notes** sections, 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 Josh Wattenbarger at 412-366-5638 x16 or director-youth@stjohnneumannpgh.org.

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.

Sincerely,

Fr. Al McGinnis, Barbara Stokes, Barbara Matera, Josh Wattenbarger, and Connor Flanagan