

Saints John and Paul School

Established 1952

Dear Parents,

The Archdiocese of New York has strongly advocated for the implementation of a formation in human development and maturation in all its schools for the middle school and high school grade levels. We realize that our youth are confronted with a great unprecedented challenge. They are the first generation whose socialization has become largely digital. Social media has made the whole world accessible at one's fingertips and it is no surprise that our young people are exposed to so many realities that often exceed their own maturity. Today, there is so much confusion about the fundamental aspects of our human nature such as love, identity and sexuality. Confusion about these topics is not new, but the saturation of moral ambiguity that is presented to each young person in his or her daily context is unprecedented.

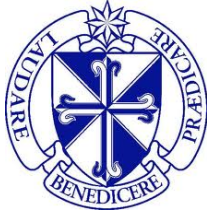
In this regard, we would like to inform you that a new module on human development will be added to the 7th and 8th grade religious education curriculum this year. This is a new educational endeavor that Saints John and Paul School is undertaking with the hope that the spiritual and intellectual foundation that our students receive should prepare them for the world of tomorrow.

In a somewhat darkened world the Good News shines; *we are fearfully and wonderfully made* and love, identity, and sexuality are not meant for confusion but have been given by God and are meant to be enlightened by the Gospel truth. All are hungry for the truth, especially our young people for it alone has the power to set us free.

After much discernment about which program and educational tool to present, we have decided on Ascension Press' *Theology of the Body, Discovering God's Plan for Love and Life*. This new program, *Theology of the Body* is based on the teachings of Saint John Paul II. It is a theology that focuses on the significance that all men and women were created in the image and likeness of God.

This program is designed to answer two essential questions: "Who am I?" and "How should I live?" *Theology of the Body* addresses the issues that confront our middle schoolers: body image, techno-socializing, dating, sin and reconciliation, healthy sharing of emotions, cyber bullying, weekend culture and questions about sex and love. These issues can be intimidating for parents and teachers alike, but this program guides the users through these tough questions by the authentic teachings of the Church.

One of the main attractive attributes of the program *Theology of the Body* is that it comes with a Parents' Guide! This guide allows the parents to follow the teachings exactly as their child experiences



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them. We believe that you as parents are the primary educators of your children in these matters. With the Parents' guide you will be equipped to speak with your son or daughter about each topic and lesson.

We pray that this experience will help our middle schoolers to discover the greatness and beauty that they possess in their humanity. Catholic education seeks to introduce the light of Christ in all areas of life, especially the humanity that God created. We desire nothing more than that Jesus our Lord should be the rock foundation on which our lives are constructed.

Be sure of our prayers for you and your child.

God Bless,

Father Frank Prima

Father Frank Prima
Religion Teacher

Fatima deCarvalho-Gianni

Fatima deCarvalho-Gianni
Principal