Dear Parents,

As part of our Religion curriculum at St. John Paul II Catholic School, students will participate in two important archdiocesan programs: **Human Sexuality Catechesis (Spirit of Truth - Theology of the Body) (1st-8th grade)** and **Circle of Grace (PreK- 8th grade).** Both are firmly rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church and are designed to help our children grow in faith, dignity, and virtue.

Human Sexuality – *Spirit of Truth - Theology of the Body* (Grades 1st- 8th)

As part of the Religion curriculum at St. John Paul II Catholic School, students will receive instruction on Human Sexuality. Following archdiocesan guidelines, we are required to provide catechesis on this topic. We use the *Spirit of Truth – Theology of the Body* curriculum. This program is fully aligned with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston directives for teaching sexuality in Catholic schools and has been formally approved. In addition, each Religion teacher is required to complete specialized training and formation before teaching this course.

We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children, and we want to assure you that this course will be taught faithfully and in accordance with the official guidelines and manuals. While we cannot anticipate or limit all of the questions students may ask, please be assured that every response will reflect the teachings of the Catholic Church and will always keep the best interests of the students at heart.

Circle of Grace – Safe Environment Education (PreK- 8th grade).

In addition to Human Sexuality, students will also take part in **Circle of Grace**, the Archdiocesan safe environment program. Circle of Grace is integrated into our faith formation so that children understand both the **beauty of their God-given dignity** and the importance of safe, loving, and respectful relationships. The program teaches that each of us lives within a “Circle of Grace” — the very presence of God that surrounds us in mind, body, heart, and soul.

Circle of Grace helps children: recognize God’s presence and love in their lives; understand their own dignity and the sacredness of relationships; identify safe and unsafe situations and know how to seek help from trusted adults; and build confidence in protecting themselves while respecting others. Circle of Grace goes beyond just protection by helping children and young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

Both programs together reflect our Catholic belief that every person is created in God’s image and worthy of love, respect, and protection. As parents and educators, we share the responsibility of guiding children to recognize their dignity, make virtuous choices, and trust in the Lord who has called them by name. We are grateful for your partnership in this important mission. If you have any questions, please let us know.

In Him We Trust,

Rebecca Bogard, M. Ed.

Principal