



Diocese of Austin

Pastoral Center
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Catechesis on Human Love Certification

“Sexuality is a fundamental component of personality, one of its modes of being, of manifestation, of communicating with others, of feeling, of expressing and of living human love.” (*Educational Guidelines in Human Love*, 4). In a culture that often reduces the significance of human love and sexuality and provides “depersonalized, recreational and often pessimistic information” (*Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*, 1), parents struggle to give their children an adequate education in regard to the true meaning of sexuality. With a keen awareness of this problem and with true love for the human person, St. John Paul II labored to offer an adequate anthropology, or understanding of the human person, to the Church and to the world during his years of service as priest, bishop and pope. In his teaching, popularly known as Theology of the Body and better understood as a *catechesis on human love*, the late Holy Father offered his reflections on the meaning of the body and the human person. This certification offers the wisdom of the Church to catechists for education in human love and sexuality, in particular incorporating St. John Paul II’s catechesis on human love which helps us to understand the human person in a way so radically different from the current culture.

Requirements and Steps for Completion*

**All candidates who are seeking to be certified must be responsible for the completion of all the following steps.*

1. Application: Collect the following and submit to the Office of Family Life.

- Completed Application
- Written Testimony
 - 300 words
 - Keep in mind personal witness is an essential element of catechesis
 - Should express reasons for pursuing this certification
- Letter of Recommendation from your Pastor/Clergy
- Letter of Recommendation from a Church ministry peer regarding your participation in ministry in the Church
- Compliance with Diocese of Austin Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Policies
- Copies of Transcripts or Certificates of any previous education on human sexuality, morals, chaste living or Theology of the Body, if applicable

2. Initial Interview

The interview will be scheduled by a representative of the Office of Family Life after the items from the previous step are received.

- Interviewer: _____
 Completed

3. Attend Certification Courses

Candidates may be exempt from certain classes dependent on previous education. This will be discussed and determined in the interview. More information on the classes is available in the Course Syllabus for the Catechesis on Human Love Certification.

- Basic Christian Morality
 Christian Marriage, Friendship and Love
 Basic & Advanced Theology of the Body
 Reproduction and Procreation
 Issues of Concern
 Methods and Resources

4. Final Presentation

Candidates must demonstrate an appropriate application of their knowledge through a presentation. The presentation:

- Could involve teaching an adult education series, giving a chastity talk or delivering a series of homilies. The presentation should cover the sensitive topic of human sexuality, and student ideas are welcome.
 - Should be *at least* an hour in length. This time ideally includes taking and responding to questions. If the time period given is less than an hour, students may complete their presentations through multiple sessions. An example would be two 45-minute class sessions.
 - Should address an audience and a subject (*only one subject*) most likely to be addressed by candidates in future presentations once they have received Certification. If candidates are unable to arrange for their own presentations in their parishes or ministries, the Diocese has many opportunities available, e.g. presenting to a Diocesan committee.
- A detailed and concise presentation outline or lesson plan is submitted to the Office of Family Life. The presentation outline is ideally the organized structure of the presentation. The outline must convey what students will be teaching and how they will be explaining sensitive human sexuality topics.
- Presentation outline is approved by the Office of Family Life. This step must take place in advance of the presentation being given.
- Offer presentation and record. Recording should be in a form of a video (*Audio alone will NOT be accepted*). The recording should be done live with an audience and include any question and answer sessions. The audience can be assured that this recording is only for the use of evaluating the presenter by Diocesan staff. NOTE: No recording needed if presenting to a Diocesan committee.
- Submit recording to the Office of Family Life for final approval.

5. Final Exit Interview

Candidates will be interviewed and sent forth after the previous step is completed.