



Diocese of Austin

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Catechesis on Human Love Certification Course Syllabus

In this syllabus you will find a list of required reading texts and a list of classes offered for the completion of the third step toward the certification.

Class Texts

The following reading texts are required for all CHL certification classes, and it is best if the reading is done ahead of time. It is not expected that you will have a full understanding of the required readings, but instead should bring any questions to class. Listed here are texts that will be frequently referenced during classes.

- The Holy Bible (Catholic Editions only)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition, Pope John Paul II, Doubleday (ISBN: 978-1574551099)
- *Theology of the Body for Beginners*, Christopher West, Ascension Press, 2008 (ISBN: 978-1934217-856)
- *Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II's Theology of the Body*, Carl Anderson and Fr. Jose Granados, Doubleday (ISBN: 0385527713)
- *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (ISBN: 978-1601370433)
- *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI, Ignatius Press (ISBN: 978-1586171636)
- *Educational Guidance in Human Love: Outlines for Sex Education*, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education
- *Familiaris Consortio*, Pope John Paul II, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819864499)
- *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican Council II, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819858542)
- *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819833471)
- *The Human Person According to John Paul II*, Fr. J. Brian Bransfield, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819833945)
- *Love & Responsibility*, Karol Wojtyla, Ignatius (ISBN: 978-0898704457)
- *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, John Paul II, Pauline Books (ISBN: 9780819874214)
- *Men, Women and the Mystery of Love*, Edward Sri, St. Anthony Messenger Press (ISBN: 978-0867168402)
- *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education within the Family*, The Pontifical Council for the Family, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819873903)
- *Veritatis Splendor*, Pope John Paul II, Pauline Books (ISBN: 978-0819869647)
- Pope Francis and his speeches and documents
- Additional various encyclicals and other Church documents.

Course Schedule

The following classes are required for the catechesis on human love certification.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Theology of the Body

This class will offer an introduction to Theology of the Body, including its basic concepts, its historical development and background, and its scriptural bases. This class must be completed as a prerequisite for the Advanced to Theology of the Body course.

Read: *Theology of the Body for Beginners*, Christopher West, Ascension Press, 2008

Class 1: Christian Morality

This class will help students understand the basic concepts and principles of Christian Morality and the significance of sexuality. Within Christian Morality the class will cover an understanding of the human person as made in the image of God, human freedom, the morality of human acts and the passions, moral conscience, the virtues and sin.

Read: [*Veritatis Splendor*](#)

[Sri, Chapter 7 \(Resenting Chastity\)](#)

Class 2: Christian Marriage, Friendship & Love

This class will cover marriage in God's plan, consent, the effects of the sacrament of matrimony, the goods and requirements of conjugal love, the domestic church, virginity for the kingdom, kinds of friendship, types of love (*Deus Caritas Est*) and the role of emotion in love.

Read: [*Deus Caritas Est*, Part I](#)

[*Familiaris Consortio*](#)

["Let's Not Get to Know Each Other Better" \(NY Times\)](#)

["Carol Anne Riddell and John Partilla" \(NY Times\)](#)

Class 3: Advanced Theology of the Body

Though the elements of St. John Paul II's catechesis are incorporated into the whole of this certification, here a general summary will be given, with highlights to what most applies to the candidate who wishes to promote chaste living. This class will attempt to discuss several details of Theology of the Body. This will include an understanding of original man and woman, human beings in the dimension of the gift, the Sermon on the Mount, Ephesians 5, redemption of the body, language of the body and an authentic understanding of masculinity and femininity.

Read: ["Even in Real Life, There Were Screens Between Us" \(NY Times\)](#)

["Parents keep child's gender a secret"](#)

Class 4: Reproduction and Procreation

This class will cover some basic biology in regard to human reproduction as well as some of the science of fertility awareness that will benefit students in advocating for chaste marriages. The class will also cover an introduction to methods of Natural Family Planning and fetal development.

Class 5: Issues of Concern

After receiving a firm understanding of both the Church's teaching and science, this class will cover a wide array of the most common controversial issues that may come up when teaching, especially teens and adults. The following will be covered, though students may ask about any issue: pornography, contraceptive mentality and practice (*Humanae Vitae*), abortifacient capacity of "contraceptives," premarital and extramarital sex, divorce, cohabitation, sexual abuse, homosexual activity, same-sex "marriage," reproductive technology and sexually transmitted diseases.

Read: [*Humanae Vitae*](#)

[*Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons*](#)

["Meet the Twiblings" \(NY Times\)](#)

["The Two-Minus-One Pregnancy" \(NY Times\)](#)

Class 6: Methods and Resources

This class will offer an introduction to the entire process of certification, its requirements and steps for completion. It will discuss the proper roles of parents, catechists and priests in the education of children in human love, appropriate ages for sensitive information and available resources for catechesis on human love. This class will also expand to several optional google hangout sessions, which are designed to assist candidates seeking certification to complete their final projects.

Read: [*The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*](#)