

**Dear Parents of Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade,**

**This year the Family Life Program will be implemented into the Religious Education Curriculum.**

This is in response to the Archdiocese revising the guidelines for chastity and sexuality education in our schools and religious education programs.

The Catholic Church recognizes its obligation to promote the understanding of our sexuality as a God-given expression of the human personality. Sexuality is a precious gift from God that should be treated in that way, precious. Children will have a deeper understanding of the dignity of every human person.

The Catholic Church realizes that sexuality education should not be a separate segment from the rest of religion class. The teachings of our faith and human sexuality should be integrated into an understanding of moral life and its relationship to various other life issues.

The Benziger Family Life series has been approved by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops for both content and methodology. The books for each age level are age appropriate.

Parents have a right to expect the Church to support them in their role as the first and primary educators of their children in the area of chastity and sexuality education. This assistance or support will not replace the role of parents but serve to fortify and enable parents to perform this task well. In this series, each parent will receive a parent handbook that coincides with the student book and what they will be learning in religion class. Notes or paperwork from the child will be sent home to tell you what was discussed in class. Each class will have a **Family Life** lesson about once a month by a catechist who is trained by the Archdiocese.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Renee Hodge at 522-2686.

