

NORM 46

Norm Description: The Diocese, while remaining faithful to Church teachings on matters of faith and morals, is to provide ongoing education and sensitivity training about gender and human sexuality issues for all members of the Church of Metuchen to create an environment of collaboration between men and women, and to provide support and guidance to anyone struggling to live in accord with Church teachings.

Department or Office with Primary Responsibility: Office of Family Life Ministry, Office of Respect for Life

Departments or Offices with Secondary Responsibility: Department of Administrative Services, Department of Pastoral Life, Office of Human Resources, Commission for Pro-Life Action

Person Submitting Plan: Judith A. Psota

Goal: The Diocese, while remaining faithful to Church teachings on matters of faith and morals, is to provide ongoing education and sensitivity training about gender and human sexuality issues for all members of the Church of Metuchen to create an environment of collaboration between men and women, and to provide support and guidance to anyone struggling to live in accord with Church teachings.

Objectives:

1. The Offices of Child and Youth Protection, Respect for Life and Family Life Ministry continue to sponsor ongoing programs that provide education and sensitivity training about gender and human sexuality issues that reach out to parents, children, engaged and married couples.
2. The Office of Family Life Ministry initiated a program, *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage*, a catechetical program dealing with the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality effective January, 2008 to approximately 400 couples (ongoing).
3. Special workshops and seminars on the teachings of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* were presented throughout 2008 to approximately 150 persons (ongoing).
4. Advanced weekend training seminars on the *Theology of the Body* have been given in Spanish and English to 120 attendees (ongoing).

5. The Office of Respect for Life sponsors annual teen outreach chastity programs to approximately 2,000 eighth grade students and 1,300 high school students while providing support and resources for parents through information evenings in parishes (ongoing).
6. Beginning in the Fall, 2009, the Office of Child and Youth Protection will institute a mandatory program, *Called to Protect*, at all four diocesan high schools in grades 9-12. Teachers are currently in the process of being trained in each of the high schools. This program will be ongoing and offered annually to ninth graders and new transfer students.
7. In the Summer, 2010, the Office of Family Life Ministry in conjunction with the Office of Respect for Life will establish a task force consisting of representatives from the Departments and/or Offices of Administrative and Legal Services, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Evangelization and Education, including a cross-section of high school campus ministers and teachers, to study and develop a comprehensive two-year plan that will broaden the current outreach on matters of faith and morals to children and parents.
8. The Office of Family Life Ministry initiated a twelve week spirituality seminar for women in church leadership positions for spiritual growth and with the intent of creating a network of women who may be available to assist with future focus groups for women (six weeks completed in November, 2009, the final six weeks to be completed March, 2010).
9. The Department of Pastoral Life working with the Human Resources Office will collaborate to sponsor two diocesan training programs dealing with gender sensitive issues; one for all diocesan department and office directors, the other for clergy to be held in the Spring, 2010.