



Office of the Bishop

December 21, 2012

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The Peace of the Lord be with you this holy season! I write to inform you of a new family program, Learning about L.I.F.E. (Love, Infatuation, Friendship, and Exploitation), being introduced in each parish of our Diocese. Within a Catholic context, the L.I.F.E. sessions are designed to help you speak with your children about sensitive topics, such as relationships, sexuality, and chastity in an engaging, interactive manner, using language and activities appropriate for children from pre-school through high school.

Because the program is interactive, the sessions are scheduled for the children of a specific age group with their parents present. The sessions focus on developing the virtues and character strengths which each child will need in order to grow into a loving, caring adult. During the sessions, a trained facilitator will guide you in discussing with your own child, relationships that are positive and loving as well as those which may be negative and abusive. Because the dialogue continues at home, it is important that one or both parents attend the sessions with each of your children.

The Learning about L.I.F.E. program was designed by Sister Kieran Sawyer, SSND and Dr. Kathie Amidei, both nationally recognized leaders in the field of youth catechesis and family faith formation. The program was also thoroughly vetted by various representatives of the Diocese before its introduction to our parishes. Your participation is an important aspect of the program. I encourage you to learn more by speaking with your pastor or director of religious education of your parish.

I am grateful to you for your gift of parenthood and I pray for you. During this holy season, may we be open to God's instructions that we may walk in His paths.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John Noonan  
Bishop of Orlando