
II. Sexuality and the Dignity of the Human Person

Sexuality may be understood or misunderstood, esteemed or degraded, treated respectfully or abused. It is essential to develop correct attitudes toward sexuality. 2331, 386

Knowing that we are made in the image and likeness of God is the basis of our respect for ourselves and others. Understanding this and esteeming our God-given dignity lead us to a proper attitude toward our sexuality. 355-57, 369-70, 2331

A positive attitude toward sexuality begins with a positive attitude toward ourselves and others. Respect for ourselves and others includes:

- the realization that my body and the bodies of others are sacred; 364, 2258
- the acceptance of my body and the bodies of others as good; 362
- care for and development of my whole self — body, mind and spirit — and the appreciation of others as whole persons; 362, 364
- a recognition of my gifts and talents, and those of others; 357-58
- the ability to remain obedient to my conscience, even when this means withstanding the pressure of the crowd; and the refusal to tempt or pressure others to act against their conscience; 1777-78, 1784
- awareness of the immediate and long-range consequences of my actions in my own life and the lives of others; and 1789
- the conviction that no one has the right to use or abuse me or use or abuse another. 377

N.B. Sexual abuse is a grave moral evil. The students should know that they have the right to resist and refuse sexual advances from any source whatsoever. Any catechist who becomes aware that a student is the subject of sexual abuse should notify the proper authorities.

Prayer Experience

If possible, show a video of a baby developing in the womb.

Pray Psalm 139:1-6, 13-16.

Conclude with the following prayer:

Before I was born, your love surrounded me. (students repeat)

You turned my nothingness into something. (students repeat)

And you created me. (students repeat)