



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Theology of the Body Implementation Plan for the Archdiocese of St. Louis Parishes and Schools K-8

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Dear Pastors, Principals, and Catechetical Leaders,

The Office of Catholic Education and Formation, in consultation with a committee of principals, catechetical leaders, teachers, and catechists, has been working for the last year on research, review, and considerations for the implementation of Theology of the Body (TOB) in our parish and school programs K-8. We are happy to present you with recommendations and opportunities to support the implementation of TOB in our parishes and schools. TOB will take the place of *God's Own Making/Family Life*, but does **not** replace Safe Touch.

Why Theology of the Body?

Initially presented by St. John Paul II, published under the title **Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body**, TOB is an understanding of what it means to be human according to the teachings of the Church. We want our children and families to be able to discover the very foundations of our authentic identity as human persons created in the image and likeness of God, male and female. **TOB is NOT a chastity or sex education program.** TOB is meant to form us in the truths of our faith with a deeper understanding of the purpose and dignity of the human body that points us to happiness in communion with the Blessed Trinity and with others. A TOB curriculum allows us to share these truths at age-appropriate levels and supports our new Archdiocesan Unified Framework of Religion Standards.

The Office of Catholic Education and Formation Recommendation

The Office of Catholic Education and Formation would like to begin by thanking the TOB Committee, made up of principals, catechetical leaders, teachers, and catechists, for their time and dedication in reviewing materials, providing feedback, and making recommendations to the Office of Catholic Education and Formation.

As a result, the Office of Catholic Education and Formation recommends the use of the *Ruah Woods Institute* Theology of the Body curriculum: "Revealed" (K-5) and "Rooted" (6-8). The goal is for all parish/school programs to begin implementation of TOB in the 24-25 school year. Parish/school programs wishing to implement TOB sooner may do so. Based on the recommendations of the committee, as well as representatives from *Ruah Woods Institute*, this would be a 3-year implementation process. Implementation would take place as follows:

- Year 1:** Grades K-5 - follow their own grade level curriculum
Grades 6-8 - follow the 6th grade curriculum
- Year 2:** Grades K-5 - follow their own grade level curriculum
Grade 6 - follows the 6th grade curriculum
Grades 7-8 - follow the 7th grade curriculum
- Year 3:** All grades follow their own grade level curriculum

The Office of Catholic Education and Formation Plan for Support

The Office of Catholic Education and Formation will provide support during this implementation process in a variety of ways. These include providing educational information on Theology of the Body, as well as information on the curriculum from *Ruah Woods Institute*. We are also working with *Ruah Woods Institute* to provide training and support for our parishes and schools (see below).

Orientation Session for Pastors, Principals, and Catechetical Leaders:

Representatives from the *Ruah Woods Institute* will present information on Theology of the Body, as well as their curriculum K-8, resources, and how to support parents and encourage their involvement. **Please save one of the following dates on your calendar (registration is forthcoming). The same information will be presented on both days.**

- Tuesday, October 17th at Cardinal Rigali Center, 8:30am-3:30pm
- Wednesday, October 18th at Cardinal Rigali Center, 8:30am-3:30pm

Orientation Sessions for Teachers and Catechists:

Information on orientation sessions for teachers and catechists will be shared at a later date.

Additional Information

As we begin to move forward in this process, you can find information about the *Ruah Woods Institute* curriculum by visiting <https://www.ruahwoodsinsitute.org/>. You are also welcome to reach out to me at samanthagrone@archstl.org or 314.792.7361, with any additional questions.

Please join us in praying for this process, and the good it can bring to our youth and families in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

God Bless,



Samantha Grone
Director of Religious Education