

APPENDIX 2

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

LEVEL II - JUNIOR HIGH: TOB UNIT 5



THEME: THE HEROISM OF LOVE

SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

In this Theology of the Body (TOB) unit, your child will dive deeply into the theme **The Heroism of Love**.

Man, in the image of God who is love, is called to give himself in a deep and meaningful way to God, others, and the world as a gift. Original sin and concupiscence make it difficult for man to express this love, because with sin our image of ourselves and others as gift is distorted. It is difficult for man to have the right interior vision and affirm the other person as unique, unrepeatable and chosen by eternal love. It is now easier to give in to selfish desires and the temptation to use the other person instead of treating him with reverence. Pope St. John Paul II says that I am only able to truly give myself as a gift if I first learn to master myself. This requires courage and heroism with Jesus as our example and guide.

In this unit, your child will read and study 1 Peter 2:1, 3:8-9, 14-21, which includes, “Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” Christ’s call is demanding, but not unrealistic or unattainable, because He has given us his Church where we can be united to Him and receive the strength to live our call to love. Christ’s sacraments help us grow in virtue and give us the courage to live our call to love with heroism.

As the lessons unfold, your child will participate in an activity that includes taking specific steps toward reaching an important goal. The effort of self-mastery for the sake of self-gift requires much work and can often be a heroic effort. It requires putting the other first and seeking the true good instead of my constantly changing wants and desires. It is the way of sacrifice and love that goes to the end and holds nothing back for itself.

GERMINATE THE SEED



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How have we used our family and friends for our own gain? In what ways do we mistreat God in the same manner? How can we show heroic love to one another in small ways? **(Note to parents: Doing everyday tasks with great love requires discipline (self-mastery) and self-denial but is very rewarding).*



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GROW THE SEED



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Heroic Love — Brainstorm ideas of how your family can make a heroic act of love to a neighbor, friend, or relative. Decide a plan of action and execute it. Afterward, come together for a family discussion to share the experience.

FAMILY PRAYER:

Lectio Divina — Have a family member read the following Scripture passage three times very slowly. After each round, share any ideas, thoughts or words that came to your mind and heart: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7. Blessed Ulma Family, pray for us!

Want to learn more? Visit RuahWoodsInstitute.org/parents to view a TOB parent presentation.