

APPENDIX 2

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

LEVEL II - JUNIOR HIGH: TOB UNIT 6



THEME: THE SPOUSAL MEANING OF THE BODY

SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

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

Your child will learn about how the body speaks a language without words. The meaning the body communicates that man is created from and for others as a gift-of-self that is fruitful, generous, and life-giving. We are creatures made for relationships, and the body helps to remind us of our identity and our mission. The way Christ loves and relates to the Church sets the standard for what spousal love (gift-of-self) means.

In this unit, your child will contemplate the scripture Romans 12:1-2, 4-21, which includes, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..." Throughout Scripture, God's relationship to His people is often described using the analogy of spousal love. Pope St. John Paul II reminds us that being a spouse is first of all the power to express love by participating in the love of God Himself and making a total gift-of-self. As Christians, God has given us a share in His own divine life which allows us to love others with God's divine love.

As the lessons unfold, your child will participate in an activity that demonstrates how the body expresses what is going on inside of someone through movement and action. While it's true that body language helps express who we are, Pope St. John Paul II is taking us deeper and saying something more basic: the language of the body means that the body speaks just by being in existence, before any action.

GERMINATE THE SEED



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How does the visible part of the human person (our bodies) reveal the invisible mystery of the human person (our hearts, minds, and souls)? What are some ways you can tell what your family members are thinking or feeling?



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GROW THE SEED



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Break Open the Word — Have your family break into two teams. Set the timer for 5 minutes. Each team reads together Romans 12:1-21 and lists all the ways the passage demonstrates the spousal meaning of the body (making a gift-of-self). See which team has the most examples and discuss them.

FAMILY PRAYER:

The Surrender Novena Prayer — Each family member makes an offering to Jesus of what is on your heart and mind. Pray together 10x — Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! Servant of God Fr. Ragheed Aziz Ganni, pray for us!

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