



STANDARDS FOR CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

BASED ON ST. JOHN PAUL II'S THEOLOGY OF THE BODY TEACHINGS, GRADES K-8



PREFACE

A document written early in 2019 by the Congregation for Catholic Education opens by acknowledging an educational crisis in the area of affectivity and sexuality that stems from “an anthropology opposed to faith and to right reason.”¹ It calls for: “well-structured educational programs that are coherent with the true nature of human persons (... and) a clear and convincing anthropology that gives a meaningful foundation to sexuality and affectivity.”²

Just a little over 50 years ago, the future Pope John Paul II wrote to the Jesuit Cardinal Henri de Lubac about the roots of this very crisis:

“The evil of our times consists in the first place in a kind of degradation, indeed in a pulverization, of the fundamental uniqueness of each human person. (...) To this disintegration (...) we must oppose, rather than sterile polemics, a kind of "recapitulation" of the inviolable mystery of the person.”³

Early in his pontificate St. John Paul II offered what he termed an *adequate anthropology* through 129 catecheses given during Wednesday audiences that stretched from 1979-1984. These audiences were then published under the title *Man and Woman He Created Them*. Commonly referred to as St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body*, these teachings offer a profound vision of the dignity, goodness and worth of the human person. Created in the image of God who is a communion of persons, each person will find fulfillment and happiness, in whatever state of life, through the sincere gift of self.

These standards, based on St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* teachings, provide a solid basis for transmitting incrementally, K-8, a vision of the human person according to God’s loving design.

¹ Congregation for Catholic Education, *Male and Female He Created Them, Towards a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education*, n. 1, Feb.2, 2019.

² *Ibid*, n.30.

³ HENRI DE LUBAC, *At the Service of the Church* 172 (Anne Elizabeth Englund trans., 1993).



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Standards in a Catholic school should reflect the mission of Catholic education, to make disciples of Christ for this world and the next. These particular standards help toward the fulfillment of that mission as they focus specifically on man's interaction with, and understanding of, God, his neighbor, and himself from a Christian perspective.

Standards are broad statements used to focus and guide curriculum. They are a foundation for an academic program from which educational objectives and learning targets are derived. They are the skeleton, so to speak, of a much broader project of educating the human person. It is through the creation of educational objectives, the choice of curricular materials and activities, and the deep and trusting relationship between all those involved in the education environment, that standards become animated and learning takes place.

Enclosed you will find *Standards for Christian Anthropology: Based on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body Teachings*. The same content has been organized in two different ways: by grade and by theme. The set of 'standards by grade' were designed to align with the Ruah Woods **ROOTED: Theology of the Body Curriculum (K-8)**. When using the *Standards* in conjunction with the ROOTED curriculum students and teachers will have a specific vertical focus and graduated depth of knowledge, ensuring continuity of learning through a systematic presentation.

Some schools and dioceses might choose to re-order the standards to better integrate with an existing religion program. For that reason, we have created a 'Standards by theme' template. Moving standards up or down a grade level is quite acceptable based upon the needs of your student population and your curricular materials.

When closely reviewing the scope and sequence for grades 6-8, one will find that all the major themes identified in the K-5 program are again revisited at a deeper level. Two additional sub-themes of Vocation are also included: The Sacramentality of Marriage and Virginitly for the Sake of the Kingdom. These are introduced in 8th grade. The 6th grade year has more standards than the other middle school grades to allow those schools interested in beginning a study of Christian Anthropology/Theology of the Body at the middle school level to do so without missing foundational concepts introduced in an earlier program.

When human persons know their great dignity and worth as sons and daughters of God, they are able to flourish in their Christian lives and experience profound happiness. We hope these standards will be a stepping stone for many young people to know who they are and live in accordance with their calling.





STANDARDS FOR CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

BASED ON ST. JOHN PAUL II'S THEOLOGY OF THE BODY TEACHINGS, GRADES K-8

“God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

— Genesis 1:27

Key to Numbering of Standards

Grade Level

Themes:

- 1 Creation is a Gift
- 2 Original Solitude
- 3 Original Unity
- 4 Original Nakedness
- 5 Gift of Self
- 6 Body Reveals the Person
- 7 Historical Man – Fall and Redemption
- 8 Purity of Heart/Virtue
- 9 Vocation
- 10 Eschatological Man – Resurrection

Number of Standard by Theme in each Grade Level

TOB Theology of the Body Standard

Example: K1.1 TOB Means Kindergarten, Creation is a Gift, First standard, Theology of the Body

Kindergarten

- K.1.1 TOB Explain that man is the pinnacle of creation because he is made in the image and likeness of God (TOB 5-7).
- K.1.2 TOB Express that creation is a gift from God who is loving (TOB 13:2-3).
- K.2.1 TOB Discuss that it is unique to human beings to care for creation (TOB 6:4).
- K.2.2 TOB Recognize that the human person has a special relationship with God in comparison to animals (TOB 5-6).
- K.8.1 TOB Compare the special dignity of man's work to the activity of animals (cf. TOB 5:4).

First Grade

- 1.1.1 TOB Express a sense of wonder for all of God's creation (TOB 2-3, 13:2).
- 1.1.2 TOB Recognize the goodness of creation (TOB 13:3).
- 1.8.1 TOB Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good (cf. TOB 53:3).
- 1.9.1 TOB Recognize that each person is unique and unrepeatable (TOB 20:5).
- 1.9.2 TOB Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love (TOB 46:6; 78:3).



Second Grade

- 2.1.1 TOB Recognize that all creatures are a sign of God's gift in love (TOB 13:3).
- 2.2.1 TOB Articulate how and why we are made for relationship with God (TOB 6:2).
- 2.3.1 TOB Show how we learn more about ourselves through our relationships with others (cf. TOB 9:4, 12:3).
- 2.3.2 TOB Discuss reasons why God made man male and female in Gen. 1:27 and Gen. 2:18-22a (cf. TOB 2-3;13:2).
- 2.5.1 TOB Express that man is called to give himself through love as "Gift" (TOB 15:1).
- 2.5.2 TOB Discuss how Jesus is the model of what it means for a person to be a gift (cf. TOB 90:5-6).
- 2.6.1 TOB Discuss how the character of a person is embodied in the way that he carries himself, speaks, grooms, dresses, and interacts with others (cf. 1Cor. 6:19-20, 1Thess. 4:4, TOB 57:1-3).
- 2.6.2 TOB Analyze how the body reveals that each person is made for relationship with God, others, and the world (TOB 12:1, 13:4).

Third Grade

- 3.2.1 TOB Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation: naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil (TOB 5:4, 6).
- 3.5.1 TOB Contrast how God can enable people to view the world and others as gifts with how some people view the world and others as a threat, eliciting a response of selfishness and manipulation (cf. TOB 15:1; 46:6).
- 3.6.1 TOB Show how the body reveals the person (TOB 14:4).
- 3.7.1 TOB Relate man's relationship with God in original solitude to the restoration of man's relationship with God through baptism (cf. TOB 91:5, 92:2, 96:2-5).
- 3.8.1 TOB Relate being connected to Jesus the True Vine (Jn 15:4-5) to manifesting the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) (cf. TOB 51).
- 3.10.1 TOB Recognize that in heaven there will be a profound unity and harmony between the soul and the body (TOB 66: 5-6).

Fourth Grade

- 4.3.1 TOB Interpret the significance of Genesis 2:18 "It is not good for man to be alone, I will make a helper fit for him" (TOB 9:2).
- 4.3.2 TOB Compare Adam's joy at the creation of Eve to his response to the creation of the animals (TOB 10:1).
- 4.3.3 TOB Extrapolate how man is created in God's image through the "communion of persons" (TOB 9:3).
- 4.3.4 TOB Discuss that a unity of man and woman is possible because they are both alike (they are both human beings) and different (one is man, one is woman) (TOB 9:1).
- 4.7.1 TOB Recognize that suffering is a result of the Fall and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see the gifts of God (cf. TOB 26:4-5, 27:1-2).
- 4.7.2 TOB Relate how Christ nourishes communion through the gift of himself in the Eucharist (TOB 99:1).
- 4.8.1 TOB Discuss how the body expresses virtue (cf. TOB 57:1-3).
- 4.9.1 TOB Demonstrate how through our work we make a gift of ourselves (cf. TOB 6:4-7:2).
- 4.9.2 TOB Relate how work helps us fulfill a mission (cf. TOB 6:4-7:2).
- 4.10.1 TOB Discuss that at the Resurrection we will experience the most perfect communion with God and with others (TOB 68:1-4).
- 4.10.2 TOB Identify ways where God is, or was, present in their own life (cf. TOB 65:5).



Fifth Grade

- 5.1.1 TOB Compare and contrast ancient myths of creation to Sacred Scripture and God's goodness in creating (cf. TOB 13:2-4).
- 5.4.1 TOB Explain how original nakedness is seeing the world and others as God sees; as Gift (TOB 13; 14:2).
- 5.5.1 TOB Demonstrate that man comes to know himself through a gift-of-self (TOB 22:4).
- 5.7.1 TOB Recognize that Jesus reveals the love of the Father (TOB 23:4, 67:5).
- 5.8.1 TOB Articulate how virtue is life "according to the Spirit" (cf. TOB 51:5-6).
- 5.10.1 TOB Discuss how at the Resurrection we will see as God sees and our bodies will perfectly reveal his love (TOB 68:1; 69:6).

Sixth Grade

- 6.1.1 TOB Exhibit wonder and awe at the generosity of God in the gifts of His abundant and beautiful creation (TOB 2-3, 13:2).
- 6.1.2 TOB Explain how creation is a good gift created from nothing (TOB 13:3).
- 6.2.1 TOB Define "original experience" as the most basic human experiences all humanity has in common: original solitude, original unity, original nakedness (TOB 4.4, 11:1).
- 6.2.2 TOB Explain how original solitude means the experience of man's being alone-with-God; his unique relationship to God (TOB 6:2).
- 6.2.3 TOB Differentiate how man, as the pinnacle of creation, is both similar and dissimilar from the rest of creation (TOB 6-7, 9:2-3).
- 6.3.1 TOB Define "original unity" as the experience of man's unity-in-difference; the unique relation between male and female (TOB 9:1).
- 6.3.2 TOB Identify the two ways of being human: male and female (TOB 8:1, 10:1).
- 6.3.3 TOB Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female (TOB 9:3, 13:3, 14:1, 16:1-2).
- 6.4.1 TOB Define "original nakedness" as experiencing the true and clear vision of the person (TOB 13:1).
- 6.4.2 TOB Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift (TOB 14:4; 15:4; 119-120; 132:1).
- 6.5.1 TOB Explain gift-of-self as thoughts, words or actions that place oneself at the service of others and seek the true good of the other (TOB 14:2).
- 6.5.2 TOB Propose how a "communion of persons" involves the loving gift of self (i.e. the Trinity, but also the unity of the Church, the family and the unity of man and woman) (cf. TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1).
- 6.5.3 TOB Explain how man, in the image of the Trinity, learns about himself through a gift of himself (TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1).
- 6.6.1 TOB Explain how the human body is a visible sign (a "sacrament") of God's invisible love (TOB 19:4).
- 6.6.2 TOB Describe how the human body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1Cor 6:15) and why it is necessary to "glorify God in your body" (1Cor 6:20) (TOB 57.2).



Seventh Grade

- 7.1.1 TOB Explain that even after the Fall, creation remains a good gift and is not totally corrupted; it is able to be redeemed (cf. TOB 32:3, 86).
- 7.1.2 TOB Provide examples of rightly ordered desire given by God and disordered "desire" (TOB 48:4).
- 7.5.1 TOB Evaluate actions for self-mastery and describe how actions of self-mastery free one to make a full gift of self (TOB 15: 1-4, 32:6).
- 7.6.1 TOB Explain how the body has a language: the body itself communicates that the human being is a gift just by the fact that it exists (TOB 14:4).
- 7.7.1 TOB Point out that as a result of original sin man experiences concupiscence and needs to bring emotions and desires into harmony with what is truly good (TOB 26:5, 31:3, 31:6, 32:3, 33:1-2, 51:5-6, 54).
- 7.8.1 TOB Explain how Christ does not accuse but instead appeals to the human heart to be pure (TOB 45:5, 46:5-6, 49:7).
- 7.8.2 TOB Describe what "life according to the Spirit" is and how following of the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness (TOB 15:1, 45:1, 51:5-6, 53:4-5, 54:2-4).
- 7.9.1 TOB Evaluate how love, as a power, is a participation in the love of God himself: How it is total. How it is faithful. How it is fruitful. How it is generous (TOB 127:1).

Eighth Grade

- 8.1.1 TOB Propose that creation should be received as a gift and not manipulated, dominated and controlled (cf. TOB 13:3-4, 59:3).
- 8.5.1 TOB Give examples of how a person is pure in heart, that is, when he/she perceives and respects others as a gift and seeks to make a gift of him/herself to others (TOB 50; 54; 57:3).
- 8.5.2 TOB Explain how the loving communion of man and woman is in the image of the Trinity, a communion of persons who are love and who in giving and receiving are fruitful (TOB 9:3).
- 8.6.1 TOB Explain that living out the spousal meaning of the body can be through marriage or virginity for the sake of the Kingdom (TOB 15:5, 81:6).
- 8.8.1 TOB Evaluate the beatitude: "Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God" (cf. Mt.5:8 and TOB 43:5).
- 8.9.1 TOB Describe the idea of a vocation and how it is the way one lives out spousal love (TOB 78; 86).
- 8.9.2 TOB Compare and contrast the sacrament of marriage to celibacy for the sake of the kingdom (TOB 76:6, 78:4).
- 8.9.3 TOB Explain how God invites, and does not force, when he calls someone to the vocation of married life, consecrated life, or the priesthood, leaving the person free to respond (TOB 73:3-4; 76:4; 79:8).
- 8.9.4 TOB Describe how choosing the consecrated life implies both renouncing marriage and dedicating oneself to establishing the kingdom of God on earth (TOB 79:8).
- 8.9.5 TOB Explain that when God calls two people to the vocation of marriage, he is inviting them into a special sacrament of his love (cf. Ephesians 5 and TOB 87-93).
- 8.10.1 TOB Explain what will happen to the body at the Resurrection (cf. TOB 64-72).

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GRADES K-8 Scope and Sequence

THEMES	K							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Creation is a Gift								
ORIGINAL MAN Original Solitude								
ORIGINAL MAN Original Unity								
ORIGINAL MAN Original Nakedness								
Gift of Self								
Body reveals the person								
HISTORICAL MAN Fall and Redemption								
Purity of Heart/Virtue								
Vocation								
Vocation: Sacramentality of Marriage								
Vocation: Virginity for the Sake of the Kingdom								
ESCHATOLOGICAL MAN Resurrection								

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