



Living the Truth of Our Creation

*Guiding Principles on Human Sexuality
For the Diocese of Rockford*

Effective August 6, 2021

We, as Catholics of the Diocese of Rockford believe in the Divine teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, passed on to us through the Holy Catholic Church. And so, we know and believe that we are creations of God. We know too that God created us – the human person – in His image. The human person is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. (CCC 363)

In His Divine Plan, God gave us the great gift of being created male and female. We understand and believe in the mystery and beauty of being man and woman thus possessing the dignity equal to each other and made to complement each other for the continuation of all humanity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church so beautifully teaches us what God intended, “Man and woman were made “for each other” – not that God left half-made and incomplete: he created them to be a communion of persons, in which each can be “helpmate” to the other, for they are as equal persons (“bone of my bones ...”) and complementary as masculine and feminine. In marriage God unites them in such a way that, by forming “one flesh,” they can transmit human life: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” By transmitting human life to their descendants, man and woman as spouses and parents cooperate in a unique way in the Creator’s work. (CCC 372)

One of our great challenges as believers and as Catholics in our modern age is to be willing to testify to the truth. Jesus clearly spoke to His followers about the truth telling us, “If you remain in my word you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (Jn 8:31-32).

And in the dark hour of His passion, Jesus said before His earthly judge, “For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth” (Jn 18:37).

It is with this understanding of truth that we are guided in our belief and our practice as human beings made in the image of God.

Therefore, we live the truth of our creation guided by a policy that is committed to spreading the Gospel values and forming the diocesan faithful in Christ’s teachings in conformance with the Magisterium.

1. The Diocese of Rockford, its parishes, schools, departments, ministries, and facilities will only condone or promote a view of sexual identity that is consistent to the Church’s teachings in regard to gender and sexuality. As faithful partners in that teaching, parents, students, legal guardians, and families will be expected to conduct themselves and live in accord with the Gospel values we seek to impart.

2. The Diocese of Rockford, its parishes, schools, departments, ministries, and facilities will, at all times, act toward and refer to a person in accordance with his or her biological sex at birth. In all cases we will act in accord with all Christian charity.

3. At all times, employees, volunteers, students, and children and youth participating in parish, school, or Diocesan activities, as well as their parents or guardians, will conduct themselves in accord with their biological sex at birth.

We must continue to commit ourselves to love all our brothers and sisters with whom we share the earth. And we must do so by reminding ourselves and them of the truth that encompasses every human person. In this case, it is that, as part of God's plan, we are gifted in the identity given each of us by God at birth as being male or female. Because, as the Book of Genesis tells us, "God has looked on all that He made and saw that it was good" (Gn 1:31).