

Dear Parents,

Today we are very happy to inform you that students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have the opportunity to study [\*Envision: Theology of the Body for Middle School\*](#) from Ascension Press. There will be 8 sessions: 10/27, 11/10, 11/24, 12/8, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, and 3/9. Class will run from 9:00 to 10:15.

*Envision* is an 8-lesson human formation program for grades 6 – 8. All hearts, especially the hearts of young people, are hungry for God’s truth about love, identity, and dignity. Middle schoolers today are constantly asking questions about who they are, who they should be, and where true success and happiness can be found. Countless sources—including pop culture, social media, and their peers—are ready to provide them answers.

Amidst all the confusion, St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body offers clear answers about our identity, relationships, and sexuality—and Ascension’s newest program makes this timeless wisdom accessible and relatable to middle school students.

The “Theology of the Body” is the popular title given to 129 of Pope St. John Paul II’s Wednesday talks. With these talks, this great saint gifted us with a roadmap for answering such fundamental questions as, “Who am I? What is love? What do my attractions have to do with my identity? What am I supposed to do with my life?” Pope John Paul II’s answers to these questions also provide the keys to understanding married love and sexual ethics.

We wish to stress how central you are in shaping the lives of your children. They are watching and listening to you, even if it does not appear that way. Studies show again and again that parents have the largest influence on their children. Not peers, sports, video games, social media, etc. – but parents!

In that spirit, the diocese of La Crosse has a [one-page summary](#) of each session on their website. These summaries are from the older edition of the book but still correlate to what we will be doing. Please read them so that you and your children can walk through this life-changing program together. The conversations you have with your son or daughter about the topics discussed will enrich and deepen their experience, as well as be an opportunity for you to continue to deepen your relationship with them.

Children may shy away from saying this out loud, but they want their parents to be lovingly engaged in their lives. We hope you will take the opportunity to discuss the Theology of the Body with your son or daughter. They might not verbalize a thank-you, but those thoughts will be in their hearts.

You are welcome to contact us at any time through the parish office as we study the Theology of the Body, especially if there is any issue or concern that arises.

Aaron and Andrea Kane