

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM  
STANDARDS for  
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE  
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX  
MAY 2018

**Elementary Theology of the Body**  
**Curriculum Standards**  
**Diocese of Phoenix 2018**

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The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Phoenix expresses gratitude to the Elementary Theology of the Body Curriculum Committee for its work in developing a process and training protocol for integrating TOB into all of our elementary schools and for vetting resources, materials, and programs to support this venture.

The special character of the Catholic school and its Catholic Identity is the underlying reason for its existence. It is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the overall curriculum that makes the experience of Catholic education unique for our students and families. Our mission and goals are rooted in Christ and the Gospel.

The committee agrees that TOB is meant to be woven throughout all subjects, present in the language we use throughout the school day, and apparent in the culture of each school. Theology of the Body is a philosophy that underscores the dignity of the human person and defines our purpose as women and men of God. It is not merely a subject to be taught or more standards to be covered. It defines the way we view ourselves and one another.

The Holy Spirit has put into motion a beautiful movement in the schools of the Diocese of Phoenix. We look forward to the fruit it will bear!

Gratefully,



Colleen McCoy-Cejka, Assistant Superintendent

**ELEMENTARY THEOLOGY OF THE BODY**  
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## **Acknowledgements**

Ruah Woods, a ministry in Cincinnati, Ohio, promotes the teachings of the Catholic Church to support teens, single individuals, engaged and married couples, and those discerning religious vocations. Ruah Woods Press grew out of Ruah Woods ministry when the need to provide Theology of the Body formation to children was articulated by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Ruah Woods Press worked closely with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to develop the Theology of the Body standards for pre-school, elementary and high schools as seen in this document.

The Diocese of Phoenix is deeply grateful to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and to Ruah Woods Press for allowing us to share these standards in their original form and in their entirety. The curriculum materials developed by Ruah Woods Press align to these standards and follow a logical and age-appropriate progression that apply to lessons across the curriculum.

Integration of these standards and materials will be accompanied by on-going teacher, administrator, and parent formation in cooperation with the JPPI Resource Center in the Diocese of Phoenix and Ruah Woods Press. We will begin with the standards already promulgated and add the upper level standards as they and the accompanying materials become available.

## **What is the Theology of the Body?**

The “Theology of the Body” is St. John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person. The human body has a specific meaning, making visible an invisible reality, and is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives:

- Is there a real purpose to life and if so, what is it?
- What does it mean that we were created in the image of God?
- Why were we created male and female? Does it really matter if we are one sex or another?
- What does the marital union of a man and woman say to us about God and his plan for our lives?
- What is the purpose of the married and celibate vocations?
- What exactly is "Love"?
- Is it truly possible to be pure of heart?

All of these questions, and many more, are answered in the 129 Wednesday audiences popularly known as the “Theology of the Body,” delivered by St. John Paul II between 1979 and 1984.

His reflections are based on Scripture and contain a vision of the human person truly worthy of man. Emphasizing the theme of love as self-gift, they counteract societal trends which view the body as an object of pleasure or as a machine for manipulation.

John Paul II encourages a true reverence for the gift of our sexuality and challenges us to live it in a way worthy of our great dignity as human persons. His theology is not only for young adults or married couples, but for all ages and vocations, since it sums up the true meaning of being a person.

SOURCE: <http://www.theologyofthebody.net/>

<b>Pre-K</b>		
	<b>#</b>	<b>Standard</b>
	PK.1	With prompting and support, state we are created to love, by love, and for love.
	PK.2	State the two great commandments that Jesus taught: love of God and love of others.
<b>Kindergarten</b>		
	<b>#</b>	<b>Standard</b>
	K.1	With prompting and support, explain that each person is created to love, by love, and for love.
	K.2	State the two great commandments that Jesus taught: love of God and love of others.
	K.3	State life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.
<b>1st Grade</b>		
	<b>#</b>	<b>Standard</b>
	1.1	Explain that each person is created to love, by love, and for love.
	1.1.1	State that love is to desire what is good for another person.
	1.2	Explain the two great commandments that Jesus taught: love of God and love of others.
	1.3	State that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.
	1.3.1	Identify Jesus Christ as the model of what it means for a human person to be gift.
<b>2nd Grade</b>		
	<b>#</b>	<b>Standard</b>
	2.1	Explain with prompting, that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.
	2.2.1	Explain, with prompting, that Jesus Christ is the model of what it means for a human person to be gift.
	2.1.2	Explain that, for a gift to be authentic, it must be sincerely given and received.
	2.2	With prompting and support, explain that each person is created for a self-giving relationship with God.
	2.3	Recognize Jesus as the source of hope throughout our daily tasks and difficulties.
	2.4	Identify God as the source of good desires in our hearts.
	2.4.1	Explain, with prompting, that a pure heart is drawn to things that are true, good and beautiful.



3rd Grade		
#	Standard	
3.1	Identify all persons as created in the image and likeness of God.	
3.1.1	With prompting and support, explain that human beings become the image of God more fully in a free, authentic, self-giving relationship.	
3.2	Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be treated as objects.	
3.3	State that God created each person with a body and a soul.	
3.4	Explain that God made each human being as a boy or girl as revealed in their bodies.	
3.5	Explain how bodily actions have meaning.	
3.5.1	Explain how, through loving actions, the human body can reveal God.	
3.5.2	Identify <u>h</u> How the human body reveals the person.	
3.5.3	Demonstrate that the human body speaks a "language", which is God's love.	
3.6	Explain, at an age appropriate level, that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.	
3.6.1	Identify the human person as created to be a free, authentic gift as exemplified by Jesus Christ.	
3.6.2	With prompting and support, explain why it is necessary for each person to make a free, authentic gift of themselves in relationships.	
3.6.3	With prompting and support, explain that each relationship of self-giving requires each person to also be in relationship with God.	
3.6.4	Identify simple, every day occurrences in which we participate in self-giving relationships with our families.	

4th Grade		
	#	Standard
	4.1	Explain that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God.
	4.1.1	Identify humanity as the summit of creation.
	4.1.2	Identify the human person as distinct from animals because humans can think and choose, giving them the ability to love.
	4.1.3	With prompting and support, explain why each human person is intrinsically good.
	4.2	Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.
	4.3	Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.
	4.4	Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.
	4.5	Explain that all creation is "sacramental" because God is revealed through it.
	4.6	Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: <u>between human beings</u> <del>the human person</del> and God, <u>between</u> human beings and nature, between human persons, and within one's self.
	4.7	Identify heaven as a perfect relationship of free, total self-giving between human beings and God.
	4.7.1	Explain how the joy, peace, and happiness in this lifetime is a foretaste of heaven.

## For More Resources

Diocese of Phoenix John Paul II Resource Center: <https://dphx.org/jp2/>

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, TOB Webinars: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/graded-course-of-study/theology-of-the-body-webinars/>

Ruah Woods Press: <https://www.ruahwoodspress.com/>

# Future Plans

Coming to Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools in May of 2019:

Theology of the Body Standards for Grades 4 and 5

Coming to Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools in May of 2020:

Theology of the Body Standards for Grade 6, 7, and 8

High School TOB Needs Assessment: Ongoing