

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

EIGHTH GRADE: TOB UNIT 2

THEME: VIRGINITY AND CELIBACY FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM

SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

In this Theology of the Body (TOB) unit, your child will learn more about the theme **Virginit**y and **Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom**.

In Theology of the Body, Pope St. John Paul II wrote not only about marriage, but also virginity and celibacy. Patterned on the life of Christ, those who are called to this state of life renounce marriage “for the sake of the kingdom” and live two important tenets:

1. Giving up everything so that they have time to work to build up the kingdom of God in an undivided way.
2. Their lives are a sign of the future resurrection of the body, where the Church is united as the Bride to Christ the Bridegroom.

In this Unit, your child will read “...everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for my sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:16-29). As sons and daughters of God, we are all called to be spouses and parents. This occurs physically as in marriage and children, and/or spiritually in union with Christ guiding others to the kingdom of heaven. Everyone is called to holiness and love with a unique and unrepeatable mission.

As the lessons continue, the class will participate in an activity which reinforces the theme that virginity and celibacy for the sake of the kingdom is a call from God to step out of the typical/more common way of life to build up the kingdom of God in an extraordinary way. This reminds us of the eternal kingdom of heaven, our ultimate destiny and our most important goal in this life.

GERMINATE THE SEED



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What do you find special about those called to religious life? Would you be open to this way of life if God called you? Who in your life inspires you with their example of holiness? (like a pastor, teacher, aunt/uncle, family friend, coach).





FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Family Visit — Learn more about local monasteries, convents or religious orders. Pray for them as a family. If the opportunity arises, visit, or offer your help with a service they are in need of.

FAMILY PRAYER:

Prayer of Pope St. John Paul II for Young People: Let us pray for the young people, to whom the Lord extends His invitation to follow Him more closely, that they may not be drawn away by the things of this world, but may open their hearts to the loving voice that is calling them. Let us pray that they may believe that grace gives them the strength to make this gift, and that they may see the beauty and greatness of priestly, religious, and missionary life.

Amen. St. Benedict, pray for us!

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

