

## Statement Regarding Attendance at Robert Crown Center

*“Assisting parents of adolescents and youth in the formation of their children for chaste living is essential to their formation in the Catholic faith and should be mandatory in Catholic schools and in parish religious education and youth ministry programs.”*

*USCCB Catechetical Guidelines in Chaste Living. November 2007*

In every instance, the resources provided by our Catholic schools for the education of children in knowledge and practice of their faith must reflect the truth of the faith based in the fullness of revelation contained in the Catholic Church. As Catholic educators, we have both the responsibility and privilege to provide the best comprehensive health education programs to our students. We must do all we can to ensure that a strong and clear Catholic perspective is the foundation upon which our young people are taught. With our Catholic perspective in mind, the recent direction taken by the schools in the Diocese of Joliet in teaching health, science, and family life education has resulted in more effective and authentically Catholic catechesis. Parents should be confident and proud that our Catholic schools are places where the message of gospel and the teachings of the Church are paramount.

Our commitment to effectively and authentically teach the faith is the reason for our recent decision to discontinue using the resources of the Robert Crown Center for educating our students in the area of human sexuality. The Robert Crown Center is a secular organization and teaches and refers to resources that promote an understanding of human sexuality incompatible with Catholic teaching. Affiliation with Planned Parenthood as well as other partners and resources inconsistent with Church teaching make the use of the facilities, programs and resources of the Robert Crown Center inappropriate for the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Joliet.

The Religious Education Office (REO) and Catholic Schools Office (CSO) continue to work diligently to provide the materials and resources needed to teach human sexuality with values rooted in our Catholic faith. Recommended options are available to schools and Religious Education programs.

In his first encyclical, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, captured the essence of the Christian vocation from which our Catholic view of human sexuality emerges. He wrote, “Young people want to live life to the fullest. Encountering Christ, letting themselves be caught up in and guided by his love, enlarges the horizons of existence, gives it a firm hope which will not disappoint. Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God’s faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness.” (*Lumen Fidei*, 53)