



*Pastor's Column ~ October 22, 2017*

*Planned Parenthood Sex-Ed Curriculum Proposal*

The news came out recently that Planned Parenthood has proposed a Sexual Education Curriculum for use in schools, and Spokane's District 81 is seriously considering adopting this proposal. Several parishioners have raised their concerns already, and rightly so. What follows is a Pastor's Column from the Sunday bulletin of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, and what Fr. Darin Connall says here echoes my own sentiments:

*Recently, the Spokesman Review reported that our Spokane Public Schools are considering approval of a sex education program developed by Planned Parenthood. It amazes me that Planned Parenthood was even considered as a credible provider for such a curriculum. After all, Planned Parenthood is not a neutral party in the area of sex education. They have an aggressive agenda which is contrary to traditional moral values and a business model built on abortion. Imagine if Bishop Daly suggested that the Spokane Public Schools adopt a Catholic curriculum regarding sex education. People would revolt. Many would rightly claim that we are not a neutral party and that we have an aggressive agenda to promote chastity and save unborn human lives. If the Catholic Church has nothing to contribute because we are not a neutral party, then Planned Parenthood should not be allowed to contribute anything either. Planned Parenthood would no doubt respond to such criticism by focusing on their non-abortion activities and their self-proclaimed status as a "champion for women's health." This is an example of disingenuous marketing that attempts to divert public attention from their evil acts. One of the committee members responsible for reviewing the curriculum was quoted as being deeply concerned. He indicated that the content is troubling for its graphic nature and the way it sexualizes students. This should trouble all Catholic parents with students in Spokane Public Schools. It should also give pause to all tax paying citizens whose dollars fund Spokane Public Schools and it needs to be considered the next time we are asked to support a levy. It is my understanding that the curriculum has not yet received final approval. Before it is too late, I encourage you to contact Ms. Deana Brower who is listed as Board President on the Spokane Public Schools website. Her email address is: DeanaBrower@spokaneschools.org. When sharing our concerns, it is important for us to remember to do so with respect and Christian charity.*

*Asking for the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes, I remain, Sincerely yours in Christ, Rev. Darrin Connall Rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes.*

I echo Fr. Connall's words because I whole-heartedly agree with him and could not have said it any better myself, and I convey all of this to you because we absolutely must be kept informed about what all is going on in our city and in our public schools – which, by the way, as we know, are funded by *your* taxpayer dollars, whether you actually send your children to public schools or not. We must also be kept informed about the implications of everything that goes on with regard to our Catholic Christian faith and our lives of active and intentional discipleship. That means that we must take a much more active role in the public forum, both in the politics of our city, state, and federal governments *and* in the administration of our public schools where our children and our grandchildren are being formed (or *malformed*) as citizens and leaders of tomorrow

Planned Parenthood has no business proposing a sexual education curriculum for our children and grandchildren, and District 81 has no business even remotely entertaining any such proposal. Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider by far, and they are on video record (very publicly released to all of us as we well know) for peddling and trafficking in baby body parts, among other atrocities and horrendous acts of violence against women and children.

Here at St. Peter, we offer a holistic, whole-person, healthy, and faithful sexual education curriculum: St. John Paul the Great's *Theology of the Body*. Our Family Faith Formation program, held each week Wednesday evenings, is this year providing a step-by-step walk-through presentation of this amazing theology, for parents and youth alike. My invitation to anyone in the parish who would like to experience an authentic sexual education curriculum: please join us. For more information, please contact the parish office.

Thank you, and God bless you all. And together, let us make a positive difference in our city, in our schools, and in our world.

*~Rev. Jeffrey R. Lewis*

Sacred Heart of Jesus...have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the pre-born...pray for us.

St. Gianna...pray for us.

Holy Innocents...pray for us.