



"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

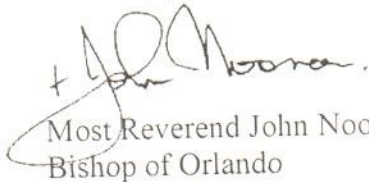
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My Sisters and Brothers in Christ: The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist young people to recognize God's love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a Circle of Grace. This Circle of Grace holds our very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. Why is it important to help our young people understand the Circle of Grace? God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. He wants us to have healthy relationships; those that are respectful, nurturing and loving so that we might increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help young people understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. The goal of the Circle of Grace program is to educate and empower young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

I call upon each one of you to assist with this goal by teaching our young people and their parents/guardians that each one is held within a circle of grace; each one is beloved. May our recognition of the sacredness of each other begin a path of right relationships with God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando