



2018

Office of the Bishop

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Pope Francis wrote in *Amoris Laetitia*, "The family is thus the place where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. They learn this "trade", passing it down from one person to another: "When in time to come your son asks you... You shall say to him..." (Ex 13:14)."

Learning about L.I.F.E. (Love, Infatuation, Friendship, and Exploitation) is a family program used in each parish of the Diocese of Orlando to help parents pass on the faith. You have asked me to assist you in speaking with your children within a Catholic context about sensitive topics, such as relationships, sexuality and chastity. Learning about L.I.F.E. does that in a way that is engaging and interactive, using language and activities appropriate for the ages of your children.

Because Learning about L.I.F.E. is interactive, the sessions are scheduled for the children of a specific age group with you present. The sessions focus on developing the virtues and character strengths which your children will need that they might grow into loving, caring adults. During the sessions, a trained facilitator will guide you in discussing with your own child, relationships that are positive and loving, that affirm them as children of God. They will also assist you in speaking about relationships which may be negative or abusive, those that do not honor the sacredness of each person. I encourage you to learn more by speaking with your pastor or director of religious education of your parish.

The gift of parenthood is one of holy leadership. May the Word of God be on our lips and in our heart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando