

A Note to Parents for Lesson 3

This week we discussed the Safe Environment concept in terms of unconditional love in the context of our religious education lessons. For all grades we discussed how God loves us unconditionally and calls us to love our neighbor. We stressed that Jesus wants us to experience the same kind of unconditional love He offers in all of our relationships. We encouraged our students to treat others with respect and to recognize that they too are deserving of respect from others. We differentiated love that is based on meeting certain conditions (“I’ll only love you if...” or “I only love you because...”) from unconditional love and encouraged the children to share with their parents their feelings about relationships.

At the high school level, we encouraged our students to read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 and substitute the words “Am I” for “Love is” to help them discern their role in their current relationships. Next, they were encouraged to substitute the names of significant others in their lives to help them assess the health of their current relationships. We discussed some signs of risk for abuse in relationships and encouraged them to seek help if they believe they are in an abusive situation.

We encourage parents of children in all grades to talk with their children in an age appropriate manner and:

- Communicate your unconditional love and support for them.
- Share with them your beliefs about right relationships and real love.
- Let them know they are always deserving of unconditional love.
- Seek out additional information on signs of abuse.

There are many resources available within your community or through the Diocese of Scranton website at www.dioceseofscranton.org and click on Safe Environment.

Love Is...
How am I?

LOVE IS **PATIENT**

Love is **Kind**

Love is **NEVER Jealous or Boastful**

Love is **NOT Arrogant or Rude**

Love does not **Insist on its own way**

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the **truth.**

LOVE NEVER GIVES UP

Love's **faith, hope, & patience** never fail.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

To evaluate what kind of relationships your children are witnessing try reading this scripture beginning with “Am I?” or “Do I?”, then substitute the name of your spouse or significant other, your child’s teacher, peers, pastor, and other adults in your child’s life.

Diocese of Grand Island