
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

Thank you for allowing your teen to join us tonight at Life Teen. Below you'll find some information about tonight's topic. Please dialogue with your teen and encourage them to share what they learned.

LIFE NIGHT: COUNTERFEIT

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The Nuptial Meaning of the Body

God created man, "male and female he created them," and inscribed on their bodies the purpose and the capacity to mirror God's love. (CCC 2331)

The nuptial meaning of the body means the very design of our body orients us toward a marital (nuptial) relationship. The man is obviously meant for the woman, and the woman for the man.

Conjugal love, sex within marriage, mirrors the Trinitarian love of God. It is the mutual gift of self to the beloved and reception of the beloved. It says, with the language of the body, "I give all of me to you, now and forever."

Unfortunately, hurt and confusion surrounds human sexuality and many of us settle for counterfeits of love.

Counterfeit Love

Lust is a counterfeit of love. It seeks to satisfy selfish desires. It is self-take as opposed to self-gift. It turns someone into an object of use for someone else's pleasure, rather than a person to be loved.

Chastity is the virtue of self-mastery over one's sexuality. By having self-control, we govern our passions and find peace. It is also through chastity that we train to give ourselves as a total gift to our beloved through conjugal love within the Sacrament of Matrimony or totally to Christ through the priesthood or religious life. (CCC 2339)

If our teens have already engaged in counterfeit love, they should not give up hope. God loves them and is calling them to live in His love. Reconciliation is available. It is the sacrament of healing. It makes us whole. It also cleanses us from our sin, gives us a new start, and restores our relationship with God.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. What is love?
2. How is lust a counterfeit of love?
3. What is chastity?
4. How can we love now?