

New Diocesan Policy on Gender Identity

Teachers, Staff and Parents,

Last Friday Bishop Boyea released a new policy on gender identity, “Policy on the Human Body as a Constitutive Aspect of the Human Person.” We’re not going to reprint the [press release](#), which we strongly encourage you to read, but here are some key points:

1. The Diocese of Lansing has published a new policy on “gender identity” which aims to foster the highest standards of pastoral care for those with gender dysphoria while also ensuring that Catholic entities, such as parishes and schools, have the capability and confidence to safeguard those in their care from contemporary gender ideologies.
2. The diocesan policy means that students and parents will be addressed with pronouns in accord with their biological sex; students will participate in sports and use bathrooms and locker rooms in accord with their biological sex; and Catholic schools will not cooperate in the administration of puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormones.
3. With the new policies, the diocese also issued a theological guide, “[The Human Person and Gender Dysphoria](#)”, which explains the teachings of the Catholic Church regarding human anthropology, the human person, and the pastoral challenges posed by transgender ideology.
4. For our school, this means:
 - All school students and their parents will be addressed and referred to with pronouns in accord with their God-given biological sex.
 - Students will participate in competitive athletics in accord with their God-given biological sex.
 - Catholic schools will not allow, or otherwise cooperate in, the administration of puberty-blocking, or cross-sex hormones.
 - All students will use bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their God-given biological sex. On a case-by-case basis, students who have been clinically diagnosed with gender dysphoria may request the use of a single-person, unisex facility.
 - The Diocese encourages counseling for those whose sexual identity causes them distress or confusion as well as those who suffer from or are diagnosed with gender dysphoria.
 - Counselors or other medical professionals treating those with sexuality-related distress or those with gender dysphoria should hold a correct Christian anthropology of the human person and understand and adhere to Catholic teaching.
 - The Diocese opposes any transgender therapies or surgeries that are undertaken with the intent of helping a person “transition” away from his or her biological sex, while also recognizing that appropriate medical care may be necessary in rare cases of true genetic or physical anomalies.

As Pope St. John Paul II said, “Do not accept anything as truth if it lacks love. And do not accept anything as love if it lacks truth. One without the other becomes a destructive lie!” We are grateful for the leadership of the bishop and the diocesan curial staff in promulgating this new policy rooted in a sound anthropology.

**Your servants in the Lord,
Fr. Mathias Thelen and Mrs. Carley Dunphey**