



*The Roman Catholic*  
*Diocese of Phoenix*

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Dear Parents and Teens,

How blessed we are to be Catholic! With the constant assault on our youth from the current culture, it is difficult to hear the consistent and positive message of our Catholic faith when it teaches about life, love, and the value and dignity of each person. We need only look at the confusion regarding sexual behavior and its devastating effects on our teens, on marriages, on families, and on society to know we are in a battle. We want our teens to make it through their youth without stepping on a mine in this cultural minefield and especially to make it through their college years and into their future vocations with a thriving and growing faith.

Parents, as the first teachers of their children, now have the **Catholic Academy for Life Leadership** to help them in guiding their teens through these years and into a happy, healthy, and holy future. The Catholic Academy for Life Leadership (C.A.L.L.) is a three-year program that will meet just four times a year to offer high school students service and leadership opportunities, as well as formation in topics of life and love such as the Theology of the Body, relationships, marriage, the beauty of human biology, and bioethics. When they get these topics of life and love right, our youth will be better prepared for marriage, or the call to the priesthood or religious life. They will be presented with a Catholic worldview and furthered in their journey of understanding our faith, which is based on the knowledge that we are made to love and be loved in the image and likeness of God.

This generation needs leaders who hear and are moved into action by the truth; to raise holy families, hear the call to the priesthood and religious life and witness to their faith in a spiritually broken world. Our young adults need to be prepared to live and defend the beauty of their faith from attacks that will surely come, as they enter college and adult life. Those who will later be entering marriage need to be well formed in topics of life and love in preparation for their vocation.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, as teens and parents, and of my love and pastoral concern for each of you. I urge you to visit <http://www.catholicacademyforlifeleadership.org> and then register for this diocesan program that is open to all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix