

What is Call?

The Catholic Academy for Life Leadership, a three year program which meets four times a year, offers those in the high school years an enhanced exposure to what families and parishes provide. It covers the topic of relationships – of course, with the help of JPPII and Theology of the Body. It also gives teens a chance to see the positive relationship our Catholic faith has with science, helping them think through the beauty of science as it relates to human reproduction and development. The third year covers bioethics issues related to any career path.

Who is CALL intended for?

The Catholic Academy for Life Leadership is designed for those who want to learn more about topics of life and love. It is especially for high school students who want to become leaders in their communities while also taking what they will learn from these seminars to create the foundation for a joy-filled future.

What is the right age to begin the CALL program?

CALL is geared for students to begin Year One of the program when entering 9th or 10th grade in school. Younger students may not be ready for discussions which older students often are. If age is a more appropriate guide for your teen than what grade he or she is in, let us know.

If I am uncomfortable about some of the seminar content, can my teen opt out of just that seminar?

While the CALL seminars build upon each other, it is possible for a parent to provide some of the content at home if desired and omit any language that makes the parent uncomfortable. In writing the curriculum we have worked to hit a balance between the knowledge to ready the students for what they will encounter in the culture along with the protection of their dignity and innocence. The language used is not harsh or crude, but it is honest in dealing with some difficult issues that teens face in this culture. All parents should thoroughly review the Seminar Descriptions under the Downloads section and if they desire they can send a request by email for materials to provide a particular seminar at home to their student. We'll assist in arranging for this option so that attendance credit can be applied.

Can my older student still participate in the program?

It is possible. If a student would like to find a way to attend all of the seminars in time to graduate, we can work something out. But if a student wants to attend for just one year, that is fine also.

Is CALL just for Catholics?

While CALL is a Catholic program, and as such will remain true to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, it is open to ALL high school aged students.

Can my teen attend just one seminar?

We anticipate some students may want to attend a seminar to see if they wish to join the program. Other teens may be older or soon graduating and wish to attend a seminar in which they are interested.

The seminars build upon one another, and ideally a student proceeds through the program from beginning to end. However, we do allow students (as mentioned above) to pay a low fee to attend seminars "a la carte." Please email us at call@diocesephoenix.org to arrange this.

Will there be seminars offered in my part of the valley?

At this time, we are offering a Central and East Valley location for each seminar. In addition, Prescott Area parishes have begun the program for Northern AZ.

What if my teen misses a seminar?

Each seminar is presented on 2 dates and at 2 locations to assist with missed seminars. If your teen cannot make either of the dates, they may make up the class in the following year of the program. Please contact us if there is a difficult issue. We want your teen to receive all the formation that the program offers. If you think that your teen has completed any of the seminars or retreats in an alternative or equivalent fashion, please email us at call@diocesephoenix.org to request approval for credit.

Can Parents attend a seminar with their student?

Parents are encouraged to attend these seminars with their students at no extra cost. Through going to these seminars, the parents will have the chance to learn information they may have never heard. In going together, it is hoped that the parent and student will be able to later discuss what they learned from the seminar. During the second year, Beauty of Biology, there is one seminar that is specifically designed for parents to join

their students. Moms or mom substitutes attend with their daughters and Dads or dad substitutes attend with their sons. While this seminar is geared towards a parent/ student dialogue, the student will never be penalized if a parent cannot attend.

Who are the speakers?

Please see the speakers/resources tab on the homepage to see the impressive list of speakers for CALL. They offer expertise, experience, knowledge, and the ability to speak effectively to teens. All of the speakers are faithful to the magisterial teachings of the Church. Because this is a set curriculum, the material will be consistent, no matter whom the speaker is for any particular seminar. To see the curriculum content, please see the Downloads tab on the home page for seminar descriptions.

As this is a leadership program, what is the leadership component?

As teens get into the later stages of the program, there will be opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills. In addition, during the third year students make efforts to arrange their service hours with organizations having faithful Catholic professionals, some who have already expressed interest in working with CALL teens. We hope this facilitates interactions for students with those in careers our teens are interested in pursuing. Additionally, some teens who are finished with all three years of CALL by the end of 11th grade may choose to continue working with the program a 4th year in a leadership role as a CALL Mentor.

I already provide service hours for school, do I have to do more?

If you volunteer your service hours as a part of a school or church community, these hours may also be counted towards your CALL service hours. Keep in mind that your volunteer service should be geared towards services supporting human life and love. Please see the list of approved service opportunities under the Downloads tab. If you have any questions concerning approval of volunteer service, please email us.

What if finances keep my teen from attending?

The CALL program expends registration fees towards: speaker fees, materials, equipment, website design, advertising, etc. However, we know that there can be circumstances where this fee does not fit into the family budget. It is very important to us that your teen receive leadership formation in their faith. Please contact us if finances are preventing your student from attending and a partial or full scholarship or payment plan can be arranged.

What is the refund policy for CALL?

In accord with the Diocesan Finance Department Refund policy, a fee of \$25 is charged for all refunds requested if a teen withdraws *before* attending any of the seminars