

St. Thomas More Academy

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October 20, 2008

Dear Members of the STMA Community,

A few months ago, the Board of Directors of STMA, after much deliberation and prayer, decided that we would not accept the offer from the Archdiocese for recognition as a Catholic School based on the requirement that STMA must teach a classroom course in Human Sexuality. Much of the discussion for the decision was based on the paper entitled "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality" as published by the Pontifical Council for the Family, Vatican City, December 8, 1995. In the paper it is very clear that this subject matter should be taught to the children by their parents.

Recently, I came across an article which referenced the Catholic Medical Association's 55-page document that was given to the U.S. Bishops at their plenary meeting in Baltimore in November of 2006. Basically, the document repudiates "Child Safety" programs as offered in the Catholic Schools. In addition to this article, I have included a copy of the Executive Summary of the 55-page document published by the Catholic Medical Association. The Board and I felt it would be in the interest of the entire school community to have this information disseminated. I do have one copy of the original report, if anyone is interested. Copies of the Pontifical Guidelines are also available.

At this time Joe Siattery is organizing a committee to review the various courses available and how we can initiate a home based program for our parents. Any parent or teacher interested in participating on this committee please contact Joe. Hope all is well with you and your family and you are enjoying the school year.

Sincerely,

(Lt/v/u (/Jim

Merkel