

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

MINORS

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

The Diocese of Columbus recognizes that AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and/or symptomatic or asymptomatic infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a life-threatening disease and a major health issue. The epidemic proportions of this disease prompted the diocese to adopt a policy which seeks protection of the rights and welfare of all participants in catechetical programs and staff.

ATTENDANCE

In keeping with the recommendations of the Surgeon General’s Report, each case of a participant with HIV or AIDS shall be dealt with individually. Those minors or adults who are diagnosed as having HIV or AIDS remain in the normal catechetical program as their illness allows.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Diocese recognizes the dignity and rights of all persons and is sensitive and responsive to the concerns of those who have HIV or AIDS. Information concerning the health of any person with HIV or AIDS shall be treated as confidential.

PROCEDURE

Because those with HIV or AIDS are highly susceptible to infections from others, the Surgeon General’s report recommends that the program involve an AIDS evaluation team in the medical evaluation of infected persons. The report further recommends that the person’s physician, a public health official (or physician specializing in factious diseases) and the parent (s) or guardian (s) if the person is a minor, collaborate with the designated program officials (pastor, catechetical leader, and appropriate catechists) in conducting the evaluation. Based upon the recommendations of the evaluation team, the program’s administration shall permit the person to remain active in the catechetical program and the events it sponsors under restricted conditions.

**Office of Religious Education and Catechesis
Catholic Diocese of Columbus**

Adopted 8/04
Reviewed 8/10, 7/17
Revised 7/17