

Lifestyle Policy for Archdiocese of New Orleans Educators

Introduction

The Roman Catholic Church has a ministry of educating the faithful. “The Church is bound as a mother to give to these children of hers an education by which their whole life can be imbued with the spirit of Christ and at the same time do all she can to promote for all peoples the complete perfection of the human person, the good of earthly society and the building of a world that is more human.” Vatican II, *Gravissimum Educationis*, #3.

One of the primary means of fulfilling this ministry is through Catholic schools. “The duty and right of educating belongs in a special way to the Church, to which has been divinely entrusted the mission of assisting persons so that they are able to reach the fullness of Christian Life.” Canon 794, § 1, 1983 Code of Canon Law. “The instruction and education in a Catholic School must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine; teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life.” Canon 803, § 2, 1983 Code of Canon Law.

St. John Paul described the nature and purpose of Catholic schools in his 1979 message to the National Catholic Education Association:

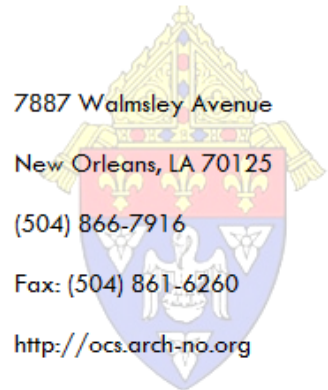
[N]o Catholic school can be effective without dedicated teachers, convinced of the great ideal of Catholic education. The Church needs men and women who are intent on teaching by word and example – intent on helping to permeate the whole educational milieu with the spirit of Christ.

* * *

Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others.

Lifestyle Considerations

In view of the Church's teaching ministry, we become acutely aware of the importance of the Catholic school teacher's witness to the students and to the total parish and school community. It is essential that all Catholic School educators model the Gospel values and agree to teach, advocate, encourage, counsel, and witness in keeping with the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith and teachings. “Lay persons are bound by the obligation and possess the right to acquire knowledge of Christian doctrine appropriate to the capacity and condition of each in order for them to be able to live according to this doctrine, announce it themselves, defend it if necessary, and take their part in exercising the apostolate.” Canon 229, §1, 1983 Code of Canon Law. Catholic School educators are not merely performing a “job function” of teaching academic subjects but are an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Church such that they are Teacher-Ministers.



7887 Walmsley Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70125

(504) 866-7916

Fax: (504) 861-6260

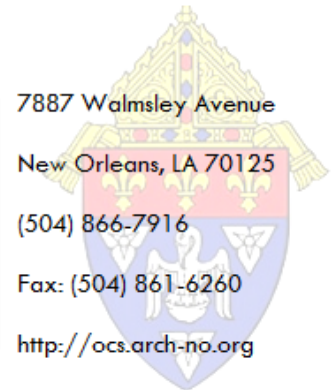
<http://ocs.arch-no.org>

All Catholics in the education ministry in the Archdiocese of New Orleans must be in good standing with the Catholic Church and be aware that support of the mission statement of the Church is to be reflected in their public behavior. Non-Catholics who teach in Catholic schools, although they do not necessarily have a commitment to Catholicism, must uphold in their teaching and lifestyle basic Catholic teachings and practices, so as not to misdirect their students.

Rejection of Church teaching -- whether by lifestyle, advocating or speaking publicly, or engaging in certain activities -- has serious consequences, in view of the impact made on the students by the teacher. Should any situation arise that is contrary to or at variance with this policy, a pastoral approach will first be taken to ensure the best possible benefit to the children and to foster the spiritual well-being of the individual in question. However, all educators employed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans and/or its parishes should be aware that words, conduct or action contrary to or at variance with this policy may result in discipline, including but not limited to termination.

Each educator must uphold Church teaching and doctrine and should be careful to refrain from actions or speech that are considered by the Roman Catholic Church to be immoral or evil or which might cause scandal, as such term is understood by the Roman Catholic Church, i.e., an attitude or behavior which leads or tempts another to do that which the Roman Catholic Church considers evil or immoral. This would include refraining from:

- Public support of positions contrary to Roman Catholic Church teaching including, but not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, embryonic stem-cell research, in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, surrogate parenthood, direct sterilization, or so-called homosexual or same-sex marriage or unions;
- Engaging in or publicly supporting sexual relations outside of marriage recognized as valid by the Roman Catholic Church, where marriage is understood as being the marriage between one man and woman;
- Belonging to any organization that is anti-Catholic or whose philosophy or mission is in any way contrary to the ethical or moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church;
- Engaging in dishonesty of consequence;
- Use of social media or electronic means of communication (e.g., email and texting) in an improper, immoral, or “scandalous” manner, as that term is understood by the Roman Catholic Church



7887 Walmsley Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70125

(504) 866-7916

Fax: (504) 861-6260

<http://ocs.arch-no.org>

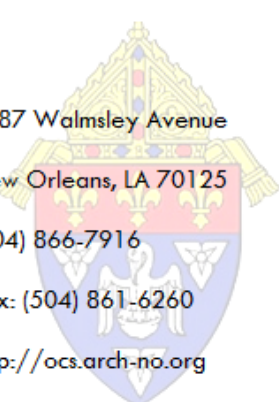
The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of the ways in which words, conduct or action are contrary to or at variance with the Church's teaching may occur but is meant to exhibit examples of such instances. The Archdiocese of New Orleans and/or its parishes reserve the right to make a determination in each case whether or not an educator's actions or lifestyle violate the moral or religious doctrines or teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have received and read the foregoing "Lifestyle Policy for Archdiocese of New Orleans_Educators." Further, I understand and agree to abide by this policy for as long a period of time as I am employed as an Administrator and/or Teacher-Minister at a Catholic School of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and/or its parishes.

Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____ Date: _____



7887 Walmsley Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70125

(504) 866-7916

Fax: (504) 861-6260

<http://ocs.arch-no.org>