

STUDENTS

5138.1

Pregnancy

The Church embraces the deepest respect for the sanctity of all human life and, when pregnancy occurs outside marriage, assists individuals with compassion and understanding.

Following Jesus' compassion and forgiveness and the Church's compassionate understanding of human weakness, the following policy is in effect in cases of premarital pregnancy:

Both male and female students involved may continue in school in order that they might receive the support that they may need at this time and to uphold the value of all human life.

Both female and male students are to be given every opportunity for counseling in respect to the value of human life and the various Christian approaches to coping with their situation.

If the young woman is a student in a Catholic school and is continuing her education there during her pregnancy, she and her parents/guardians should be advised that arrangements for alternative instruction can be made if, for reasons of health or safety, she can no longer continue her studies in school.

Policy

Revised: January 27, 1994

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg