



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

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To the clergy, administrators, and ministry leaders of the Diocese of Memphis:

In the midst of ongoing societal changes experienced today, it is important that we discern the signs of the times as we look to find ways to give authentic witness to our discipleship and our Catholic faith. Among the many changes we are experiencing in our society, the issue of gender identity requires a careful pastoral discernment so that the Church may provide a welcoming environment, while always maintaining fidelity to our Catholic faith.

Over the past year, our Superintendent of schools and our Catholic school principals have asked for guidance about how to address the concrete situations that arise related to issues of gender identity. Having reflected on their requests and after discussions with various pastors, clergy and ministry leaders in our Diocese, I now offer a policy that clearly articulates what our faith teaches on this matter and how that teaching is to shape our practices.

I issue the attached policy as administrative norms for our Diocese for the purpose of providing clear guidance on how Catholic parishes, ministries, and schools are to respond to the challenges related to gender identity issues. It begins with a preface and a catechesis that explains what our Catholic faith teaches about God's plan for the human person, created in God's image. This forms the theological foundation for the policy directives that follow.

As we continue to minister with kindness and compassion to all, I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Truth that sets us free.

In the light and the love of the Lord.

*+ David P. Talley*

Most Rev. David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee

Given at the Chancery in Memphis on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022

*Fr. James Clark*

Very Rev. James M. Clark, J.C.L., J.V.  
Chancellor