



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

*Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119*

Office of Marketing
and Mission Awareness
p) 314.792.7557
gabejones@archstl.org

Transgender Child Policy Statement

The Archdiocese of St. Louis adheres to the policy of forming athletic teams based on sexual identity of children as male and female rather than self-determined “gender identity.”

Despite erroneous notions to the contrary, the fact is that human beings are born with a sexual identity and not merely a “gender identity” of one’s choosing. This sexual identity affects the totality of the person in the unity of his or her body and soul, and it greatly affects one’s capacity to love and be loved. Ultimately, our sexual identity is part of how we embody God’s image in the world. When understood properly, the wonderful design of our sexuality can either enable us to join with God in the procreative action of bringing another person – body and soul – into this world, or provide us with a wonderful sacrifice to offer God through the celibate life.

Children are not expected nor encouraged to make important life-changing decisions regarding matters of education, residency, and finances due to their lack of experience and a fully-developed use of reason. Even more so do young children lack the much needed development of reason in order to completely grasp the true nature of human sexuality in the fullness of its dignity and power.

As Catholics, we firmly believe in the truth contained in sacred scripture when it says “God created mankind in his image... male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27) Furthermore, the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: “Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity.” (2333)

The plain logic of inherent sexual identity and the revealed truth of scripture make it impossible for the archdiocese to maintain fidelity to truth and at the same time accommodate a family’s request that we allow their daughter to play on a boy’s team as a boy, or a son to play on a girl’s team as a girl. We cannot change revealed truth nor human nature. We will continue to pray for families in these circumstances, as well as all who struggle with accepting and embracing their sexual identity.