

Diocese of Crookston High School Faith Development Survey
Parent/Legal Guardian Consent Form

This is an informed consent form that you are asked to sign before your adolescent completes a survey about their religious beliefs and attitudes. The purpose of the study is to better understand the faith of adolescents and young adults in the Diocese of Crookston. All students in 9th grade and 11th grade religious education programs in the Diocese are being invited to complete this survey. The survey should take about 30 minutes to complete and the students will be given time during class to finish. I am the principle investigator for this project (Deacon Mark Krejci [krejci@cord.edu] of the Office of Marriage, Family & Life for the Diocese of Crookston and also the Psychology Department of Concordia College) and, after analyzing all of the data from across the Diocese, I will write a report describing group answers without identifying any one person's responses. Thus, no one will know how your adolescent answered the questions. The person collecting the survey in class has been given an envelope for the completed surveys and they have been instructed to seal the envelope in front of the class after the final student finishes. The envelopes will be sent to me and I will be the only one to open them.

At the bottom of a similar consent form that students will sign, I am asking the students to provide their cell phone number (or home phone if they do not have a cell phone). Let me tell you why I am doing this. First, I will create a different number to track their survey and so all students will be identified by a random number in the set of data. But we are interested in how adolescent thoughts about religion develop over time, and so I need to match their first survey to one that I will ask them to complete in three or four years (9th graders will be asked to complete another survey in 11th grade and when you are about 24 years old we will contact you for a few follow-up questions). Their cell-phone number will allow me to match their first survey with a second survey and also contact the students after they have graduated from high school for a brief follow-up. This is a common practice that researchers use. Let me promise you that once I receive their consent form and the attached survey, I will separate the two and so their cell-phone number will only be known by me and will never be linked to their answers in any report. Thus, their confidentiality will be protected.

The surveys that they will be asked to complete have all been used in previous research studies and there is no risk involved in participation (this is a point that by ethics I need to share with you – that is why it is included). While there is probably no direct benefit to any one student (another thing I am expected to share) they will be indirectly benefitted as the Diocese reviews the results and attempts to better meet their needs in terms of their religious life.

You can decide to not have your adolescent participate without any negative consequences to them. They are also given the option of not participating. A summary of the final results will be shared with all parishes in April and an article will appear in the OND summarizing the data if you are interested in learning the results of the study.

I agree to allow _____ (please print your adolescent's name) to participate in this study (Please sign your name) _____ Date: _____

Please print your name: _____