



UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

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**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
ASSESSMENT OF THE JR. ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK
RITES OF PASSAGE PILOT PROGRAM
IRB approval #2022-38**

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE:

Dear Parent,

My name is Richard Rose and I am Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the University of La Verne. I am conducting a research study which will assess the primary purpose of the Jr. Order of Melchizedek Rites of Passage Program. The primary purpose of the program is to improve the participant's well-being through value-based decision making. The results of the assessment will be presented at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies in 2024. The purpose of this form is to provide you with information that will help you decide if you will give consent for your child to participate in this research.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RESEARCH:

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether you want your child to be a part of this study. The calendar for the program consists of Eight-week Sections, which are Seven Sessions and a Retreat. At the first session of the program the participants will be asked to answer questions on an online survey. The online survey will take about 30 minutes. At the Retreat, last session of the program, the students will retake that same online survey. The research will occur online. There is minimal psychological risk involved with the study; discomfort may result from sensitive questions. There is no more risk than everyday life. The research is confidential and the data cannot be traced back to the participant. All data will be stored in a password protected drive and locked in a University of La Verne office filing cabinet.

STUDY PURPOSE:

The purpose of this study is to determine if the moral and cultural values taught during the program have a positive effect on the well-being of the participants.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

If your child participates in the program, the ratio of student will not exceed 5 students to one.

PROCEDURES FOR THIS STUDY:

If you consent and your child decides to participate in this study, the researcher(s) will ask you to do the following things: 1. At the first session of the program the participants will be asked to answer questions on an online survey. The online survey will take about 30 minutes. At the Retreat, last session of the program, the students will retake that same online survey. 2. The research will occur online. 3. The data will be collected by online survey and audio recordings of the focus

groups. 4. There will be 1 focus group sessions. The session will last one hour. The focus groups will allow the participants to share in their own words how they were affected by the program's curriculum. The session has four areas of focus: (A) Do the values covered in this section make a difference in your daily life? Can you explain? (B) Does the practice of this set of character traits help to improve your sense of well-being? (C) Can those character traits be helpful for a values-based approach to career choices? (D) How does contemplating the values of the program inform your decision-making process?

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS:

There is minimal psychological risk involved with the study; discomfort may result from sensitive questions. There is no more risk than everyday life. The research is confidential and the data cannot be traced back to the participants. All data will be stored in an encoded password protected drive and locked in a University of La Verne office filing cabinet.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY:

Expected value to population well-being:

Students: The character traits of honesty, integrity, non-violence and faith are used to prepare students for the careers of tomorrow. Once JOM has been completed, the concepts are woven into the fabric of the student's life as a part of their life-long learning.

Community: The communities in which the participants live will benefit from the conscientious students that will reside in their common space. The students will bring the values to society which make for the Beloved Community.

University of La Verne: The Program allows the University to be engaged in a value-based community project and also recruit youth and potential college students to La Verne academic programs.

National: JOM Curriculum Assessment findings to be presented at ECBCS 50th Anniversary Celebration 2024 as a model for similar communities.

PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION:

There is no payment for participation and you may withdraw from the study at any time without consequences and may refuse to answer any questions and still remain in the study.

ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING PART IN THE STUDY:

If you and your child decide not to participate in the research study, your child is still able to participate in all aspects of the JOM program which do not require IRB approval.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Richard Rose: Principal Investigator, phone: 909 261-2907 or email: rrose@laverne.edu

If you have questions regarding giving your consent for your child to participant in this study, or if your child is injured while participating in the study, please contact the IRB Office at 909-448-4564 (irb@laverne.edu), University of La Verne, Institutional Review Board, 1950 Third St, La Verne CA 91750.

PARENT'S CONSENT:

By signing below, you are giving consent for your child to participate in the above study.

A recording of the Zoom session (audio only) Focus Group will be used during the final phase of the assessment.

Please initial next to your selection:

☐ I give permission for my child to be recorded.

☐ I do not give my consent for my child to be recorded.

Printed Name of Participant _____

Parent's Name _____

Signature of Parent _____

Date _____