

THE
CATHOLIC
Vision of Love
Diocese of Pittsburgh

**Personal Safety
Curriculum**



Grade 8

Student

CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE

8TH GRADE

BODY BOUNDARIES

OPENING PRAYER



Lord God,

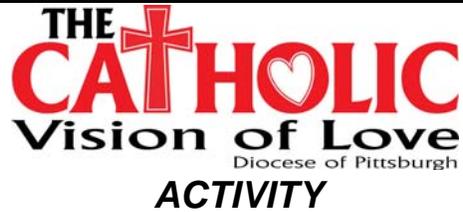
You have made all humanity in your image, and have given us a share of your likeness. Help us to recognize that image and likeness in all people. Make us aware especially of those who find themselves subjected to inhuman conditions and unable to live in freedom. May we always remind the world, through our words and especially through our actions, of the dignity you have given us and of our responsibility to safeguard that dignity on behalf of all.

Guide us to protect the rights of all who have been victimized. May they and their families be protected from harm, may they be granted freedom from their oppressors, and may they be granted a full recognition of the dignity which is theirs.

Guide our nation, our state, our city, and all people and organizations, to work for an end to human trafficking and to all types of injustice as we seek to live as your children and as brothers and sisters to one another.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Student



Talking About
What We Wear and What We Do

1. Modesty is not about drawing a line on an arm, a leg, a neck or any other body part. It's about drawing a line on your heart, telling what you will not cross.

→ What are some ways that you can “draw a line on your heart”?

2. Make a list of all of the places where someone might see images of things that are not preserving the dignity of the human person in a week.

→ What are some good choices that you can make about modesty and respect?

→ Who are the people you can talk to about issues with modesty, respect, and personal safety?

TALKING ABOUT SITUATIONAL EVALUATIONS

- ▶ You and your friends have been on gaming sites online for a couple of years. Sometimes you play against other online opponents and talk while you're gaming. One of the players always says weird things to you, and added you as a friend on Facebook.

The pictures that this person has on their profile show other kids doing weird things that you don't think your parents would want you to be seeing.

- ⇒ What can you do and who can you talk to about this?
- ⇒ If this person starts to ask you for pictures, or sends you pictures of themselves or other people doing "weird" or private things, what would you do?
- ⇒ Is this something that you should tell your parents about?

NOTE: The possession or transmission of media with compromising or suggestive images of minors is considered child pornography and is against the law. This includes webcam and email, which has certain legal ramifications, as well as social, emotional, and reputational effects Boundaries identify responsibilities. Crossing these boundaries and crossing state lines with child pornography is a felony.

- ▶ Over the summer, you and your friends spent a lot of time in the pool. Your friend's neighbor was over at the pool a lot too. He would always watch you all swim and jump around. Sometimes, he would take pictures of you and your friends at the pool, but never let you guys see what the pictures looked like.

- ⇒ What do you think about this?

- ▶ You spent the night at a friend's house this past weekend and something happened that you're not sure about. Your friend's brother and his friends were there, and they had some alcohol. Your friend drank some of the alcohol with the boys. They also were watching things on the TV that you know your parents wouldn't like because it showed private things happening between adults. When you got home, your mom asked you how the weekend was and you said, "OK". You thought that telling your parents about this might get your friend in trouble. Now, you feel funny about going back to your friend's house and your mom keeps asking you why.

- ⇒ What do you tell your parents?

Turn Page Over —▶

Student Handout continued...

- ▶ A friend takes your cell phone into the bathroom and sends a text message to someone else with it.

⇒ Is this ok? Why or why not?

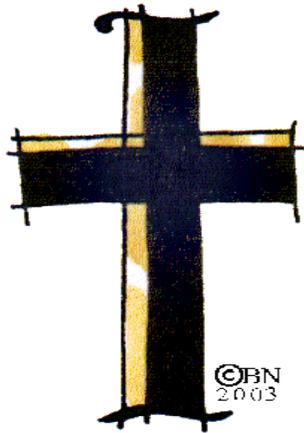
NOTE: The phone is linked to who you are: whatever is sent or received on your phone is your responsibility. The possession or transmission of media with compromising images of minors is considered child pornography and is against the law. This is known as sexting and has certain legal ramifications, as well as social, emotional, and reputational effects. Boundaries identify responsibilities.

- ▶ Someone sends you a picture message on your cell phone of someone without their clothes on.

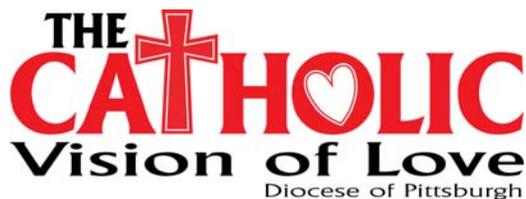
⇒ Is this ok? Why or why not?

⇒ Is this legal? What do you do and who do you tell?

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*The Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7*



Internet Safety **WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR**

Predators and groomers use information that they gather about their victims (targets) to make them feel safe and liked. Some of the scenarios discussed in today's activities take a closer look at tactics that YOU can watch out for. Below is a list of things predators and groomers might use.

“Let’s go private.” (inviting the target to leave the public chatroom and create a private chat or move to instant-messaging or phone texting)

“Where’s your computer (location, what room) in the house?” (to see if the target’s parents might be around)

“What’s your favorite video game, television show, sports team?” (questions like these tell the groomer more about their victims so that they know what gifts to offer – e.g., concert tickets; Webcam, software, video games)

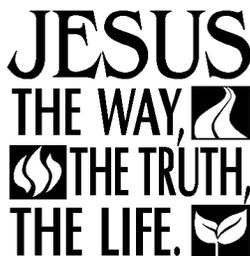
“I know someone who can get you a modeling job. (opens a doorway for inappropriate photos)

“You seem sad. Tell me what’s bothering you.” (sympathy leading to a false sense of trust)

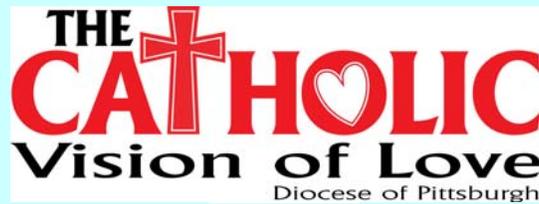
“What’s your phone number?” (asking for personal info of any kind – usually happens at a later stage, after the target (victim) is feeling comfortable with the groomer)

“If you don’t... [do what I ask], I’ll... [tell your parents OR share your photos in a photo blog / Webcam directory / file-sharing network]” (intimidation – used as the groomer learns more and more about the target)

“I have never loved anyone as much as I love you.” (playing on the emotions of the target, this sometimes will convince kids to do things that they normally wouldn’t even think to do)



Student



CLOSING PRAYER

EXAMINATION OF VIRTUE

Reader 1: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not.”
(Proverbs 3)

The virtue of **Prudence** reminds us that “It’s not about what I know, but about what I know to be true and Who I know.” God, present in my life today and all days, help me to trust you.

Group Reflection (Silent): What does it mean to trust God in EVERY aspect of my life? Why is that difficult for me? Do I fully trust in God’s love for me? Do I believe that He desires what is best for me? Do I trust that He will fulfill all His promises?

Reader 2: “Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock. He humbles those in high places, and the lofty city he brings down.” (Isaiah 26: 4-5)

The virtue of **Temperance** helps us to remember to have peace and confidence in God. “When tempers flare and fear takes over, disciples remain calm and trust in the Lord.”

Group Reflection (Silent): Are there areas in my life where I am waiting for God to “prove” himself? What are the areas in my life that I have placed conditions on my trust? What are the conditions? Do I really believe that God has a plan for me?

Reader 3: Do I continue to trust God when He seems to delay in answering prayers? Do I trust that God’s love for me is bigger than my ability? “...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength” (Isaiah40:3).

The virtue of **Fortitude** reveals the true meaning of strength, “Strength is determined not by bone and muscle, but by the human heart and God’s hand.”

Group Reflection (Silent): Do I really believe that God is big enough for all the challenges in my life? How have I made my heart stronger in Him? When have I relied on my own strength and abilities more than God’s providence?

Reader 4: Jesus Christ said, " I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34). When it comes to loving another person, or loving God, the virtue of Justice makes me ask myself this question: "Who do I serve, myself, or do I serve my God?"

Group Reflection (Silent): Do I trust God with my future? Is it more about His will or mine? Do I trust God to guide and direct all my relationships? family? friends? dating? enemies?

Where do I need help letting go and letting God? Have I taken ownership over my mistakes and surrendered them before God? Have I completely entrusted my vocation to God's guidance?

Do I trust God with the ordinary moments of each day, not just the big decisions? I cannot trust someone that I do not know. Do I set aside time in prayer? Do I listen for God's voice? Do I look for His presence and direction?

Reader 5: God, help me to trust you with all of these things. With the intercession of Saint Maria Goretti we pray:

Dear Saint Maria Goretti! The world teaches that we must please others in order to be popular. Conscience demands that I please God more than one who asks an evil thing in the name of false love. Teach me by your example to instill into others a real respect for modesty and purity.

Reader 6: Through your powerful intercession, help me to make of this evening an occasion for helping others to become spiritually stronger. Grant that others may see in me reason to change their ways, if that be necessary, and that I may have the courage to resist any temptation to sinful conduct. Let others be led closer to Jesus and Mary by my example.

All: Oh Little Saint who wanted to be popular only with your Divine Master and His Blessed Mother, help me to imitate you. Amen.

All: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be....

Reader 1: Saint Maria Goretti,

All: Pray for us! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers Found through: Friends of St. Maria Goretti USA - Br. Goretti Zilli, Director email: gzilli@maryknoll.org - P.O. Box 0043 Maryknoll, NY 10545-0043 www.mariagoretti.org Telephone: (914) 941-6372 – FAX: (914) 945-0715