

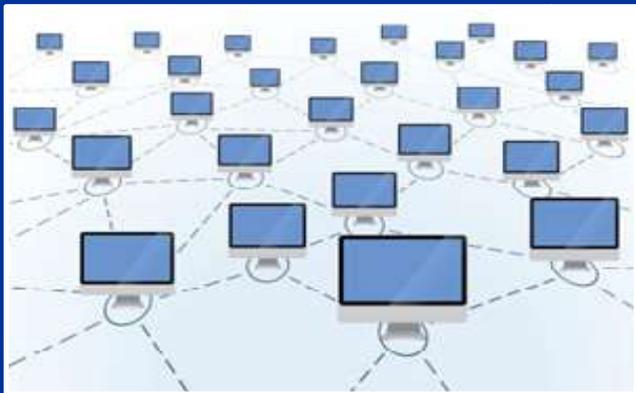


Safe Environment Newsletter

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

2018 Volume 3

Information Safety on the Internet



Reflection

We use communication in the virtual world for work, fun and building relationships. Many youth have access to cell phones with or without internet. The young people of today face challenges and risks when posting and viewing text, photographs and videos on the online.

Developing a family environment of trust and accountability is important for protecting the younger generation from the risks technology poses.

Proverbs 3: 21- 23 says:

²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion;

²² they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

²³ Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.

Youth should be warned against posting intimate or personal life details online. Once something is posted and viewed by others, it's impossible to be reversed.

"It is the task of communication to bring people together and enrich their lives, not isolate and exploit them."

-Pope John Paul II,

32nd World Communications Day, 1998

Safety Rules When You Post Online

1. Never post anything - words, pictures, videos, links, emails, blogs, comments and tweets that you're not happy for the whole wide world to view.
2. Always "Think before you post."
3. Keep your postal address, phone number and main email address private.
4. Don't give information about your planned movements, your car registration, Social Security number, age, or even your marital status which would help ID theft crooks.
5. Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
6. Consider having a closed group on social networking sites that can only be accessed by invited users.
7. Make a point of reading the rules on "Privacy Policy" before posting. And if there isn't a privacy policy, beware!

Online Protection

Be proactive in talking with youth regarding technology use.

- Parental Controls on most platforms let you create boundaries and protect your kids from accessing adult material and help protect them from internet predators.
- Filtering programs and browser settings can be used to block sites from coming in and restrict personal information from being sent out.
- Monitoring software can be used to track internet usage and encourage accountability.
- Families must discuss acceptable standards for internet use and sign technology use agreements.

Reporting Online Abuse:

Spread awareness about hotlines and complaint centers where people can get help if they find themselves in dangerous situations.

- **1-800-843-5678:** National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** or SuicidePreventionLifeline.org
- Internet Related Crimes: ic3.gov

"Every communication must comply with certain essential requirements and these are sincerity, honesty, and truthfulness. Good intentions and a clear conscience do not thereby make a communication sound and reliable."

-Communioet Progressio (1971), No. 17