

# **PTG Presentation**

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## **Technology**

What your kids have access to and what tricks they can use to deceive us.

- ▣ Most popular types of technology our youth are exposed to on a daily basis:
  - Internet
  - Cell Phones
  - Television/Movies

All of these have influences on all of us in one way or another--both in a good and bad way.

## **Parents' Rights**

- ▣ One important thing to add is that, as a parent, you have rights to intervene when you suspect something, or just want to check up on what your youth is doing.
- ▣ You also set the example on the use of these technologies. The youth are always watching.

# Television

- ▣ Remember the Show *I Love Lucy*?
  - Two separate beds
- ▣ Then came the *Brady Bunch*
  - Uproar ensued because Mike and Carol were in the same bed talking
- ▣ Now
  - What do you see on television?
- ▣ Reality TV is not reality
  - It's scripted and kids believe it to be true.
- ▣ What we watch, our children will see and think it is appropriate. If we are going to watch something questionable for their age.
  - Record it or watch it on the internet.

# Movies

- ▣ This is the same for the movies.
- ▣ Take a Rated R Movie 15 years ago.
  - Today, many show such inappropriate content that really would have been X-rated back then.
- ▣ It seems to be getting worse as our country is being desensitized.
- ▣ We need to make sure we do research on these movies before allowing or taking children to watch them.

## New Media Technologies

- The Internet, and cellular phones have allowed us to receive information instantly.
- There are so many benefits to it, however, there are drawbacks.

## The Internet

A gateway to the world

- Has its benefits....but also has its drawbacks

- Many people are addicted to the Internet now and spend a good deal of their time on it.
- A few issues with the Internet:
  - Social networking sites like *Myspace*, *Facebook* and *Twitter* are increasingly popular.
    - Youth can chat with each other online via these programs and you would never know it.

Many students are online and are on social networking sites.

- Facebook
  - Status updates
  - Friend Requests – They will accept anyone
    - Many youth just click “accept” even they have no idea who the person is. – Not Safe
    - People can pose as others.
- Twitter
  - Status updates galore
    - Leaves room for stalkers, robberies, abductions, etc.

Twitter and Facebook update people on what you are doing, where you are going. This can become a problem. Unless they are 18, you have a right to their accounts. However, use discretion you don't want to lose their trust.

- **How do we stop it?**
  - **BEST METHOD ----**
    - Don't let you youth have a computer in their room.
    - Placing a computer in a common place, such as a living room, hallway, office, etc., makes it less likely they will do something wrong. They will be less tempted.
    - Restrict their computer usage.
      - We, as a society, are addicted to the computer and Internet. Help them break that habit and get out and do things.
      - There are programs out there where each family member has a username and password and there are limits to usage time for the day or week. These programs also have filters you can put in content.

## **Cell Phones**

Teenagers 14-17 @ St. Mary (190 surveyed)

- 70.5% of those surveyed have a cell phone
- 40.5% feel their cell phone habits are out of control
- 13.6% Sync E-mail on their phone
- 18% Use the Internet on their phone frequently
- 59.47% say we let cell phones control our lives

more than they should

- The average Text messages per month: 14,013
- Texting is replacing talking among teens
  - Leading to isolation
- Teens are not getting as much sleep as they leave their phones on and text throughout the night.
- Teens with Internet access on their phone are more likely to look at inappropriate material because parents won't look at it.

**Bottom line:** These youth are addicted to their cell phones and some are even using them for very inappropriate reasons. Sexting is an example.

Remember when you were younger and your friends had to call the house?

- Your parents would get to know your friends better.
- Not so much the case any more.
- Who needs a Landline? There is a benefit:
  - Having a your child call from a landline at a friend's house also helps you identify the location of where your child is (if you have caller ID & your home displays the location name & number).

# Cell Phones

## Tips and Tricks

### Cell phones with passwords for access

- As parents, you have a right to access this phone. If your youth won't give you access, they might be hiding something. This can be minor or a big issue.

### Text Messaging

- Call the cell phone company and let them know that you would like text messages blocked on the phone. It is possible.
- The phone company can send you a copy of the text messages from that phone so that you can review them if you suspect something.

## How to keep them from isolation

- Get them to do outside activities
- Limit cell, and internet use
- High School students can look into the youth group here at the church
  - Youth Group
    - We make them turn off their phones before

- we begin
- Steubenville Youth Conference and retreats
    - No cells are allowed

## **Your Youth's Right**

- ▣ Remember that your youth does have a right to some privacy. Frequently checking up on them displays a lack of mistrust and could result in a poor relationship. It is recommended that you use discretion when checking up on your youth.

## **Got Questions?**

- ▣ This presentation can be downloaded from [ww.stmaryyouthgroup.com](http://ww.stmaryyouthgroup.com) under “official documents”
- ▣ You can e-mail: [youth@stmary.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:youth@stmary.sdcoxmail.com) for any questions.