

The NCCW Campaign for Human Dignity

**A Resource Manual
for NCCW members**

**written by
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“God’s unconditional love,
which bathes every human individual,
points to a meaning and purpose
for all human life.”

- *Pope Benedict XVI*

An Outline of the Campaign for Human Dignity

“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.”

-USCCB Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The National Council of Catholic Women has chosen “The Campaign for Human Dignity” as its umbrella theme for its many vital spiritual, service and leadership programs. The theme underlies all our important work, and is the basic tenant of all our programs. This Resource Packet has chosen to focus on three touchstone issues related to God-given dignity of each human person: 1) Theology of the Body 2) Pornography (Including sex and cell phones) and 3) Human Trafficking.

Additional information regarding Immigration has been included, as well as information regarding Climate Change as it relates to migration and poverty. Of course, affiliated organizations may choose to incorporate other themes reflecting programs that hold that all “human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.”

This manual is a starting point which contains background information and resources for members wishing to begin or continue their important parish programs.

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How to Use “The Building a Campaign for Human Dignity” Resource Packet

1. Select a Commission (or members from each Commission) or appoint a special committee to review all the materials in this packet. Use the internet sites to secure more resources.
2. Review current programs and discuss ways to incorporate the theme “Campaign for Human Dignity” into existing programs as well as adding additional programs. For example, use a portion of funds raised at a fund raiser specifically for the Campaign such as to purchase printed brochures for distribution to the parish community. Use this information in your advertisement for the fund raiser.
3. Develop an education and outreach plan for the CCW membership and for use with the entire parish/community.
4. Duplicate the materials that are relevant to the area of focus.
5. Obtain the Pastor’s permission to place materials in the back of the church and/or other places where literature is displayed in your parish.
6. Devote a meeting to the Campaign for Human Dignity. Prepare a display with materials for review by members as they enter the meeting place. Place the display near the registration area. Invite a representative of a local advocacy group to speak to your council about local services.
7. Use the Daily Prayer for the Success of “Building a Campaign for Human Dignity” written by NCCW Spirituality Commission Members and/or Suggested Intercessions for the Campaign
8. Develop a study group and focus on “Theology of the Body” Use the Resources List provided in this section to obtain the materials. Devote a meeting to this subject matter. Have members of the Study Group present the information and share ways members can develop a fuller understanding of this topic.
9. Run a series of articles in your affiliation newsletter and/or parish bulletin using the information sheets and/or other resources. Obtain permission to use the insert in your parish bulletin.
10. If a special committee was set up for the Campaign for Human Dignity, find ways to involve other committees or commissions. This is a good way to involve more members.
- 11... If you parish has a joint meeting of all ministries or committees, ask to have time on the agenda to present the Campaign and find ways to partner with other

ministries/committees. This will broaden the message as well as demonstrate CCW's commitment to promoting Human Dignity.

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

This summary is a starting point for those interested in Catholic social teaching. A full understanding can only be achieved by reading the papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological

differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

***Daily Prayer for the Success of
Building a Campaign for Human Dignity***
Written by NCCW Spirituality Commission Members

Almighty Father, please help the National Council of Catholic Women to educate and inspire its members to embrace the Campaign for Human Dignity. Help the members show leadership by writing or calling their legislators or by informing others on the importance of human dignity from conception to natural death. Let us be open to a deeper understanding of the truth God is proclaiming in our own bodies, that we are created to give. Let us learn to be a gift to all as we reach out to help others. May a study of John Paul II's Theology of the Body inspire and educate us in the meaning of life. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.

Suggested Intercessions for the Campaign

1. For the success of the NCCW Campaign for Human Dignity, that through this campaign, we may uphold the dignity of all.
We pray to the Lord.
2. That we may continue our work to build up a culture of life and a civilization of love in our world.
We pray to the Lord.
3. For those trying to overcome addictions that harm the body and their relationship with the Lord.
We pray to the Lord.
4. For the wisdom to educate teens on the importance of Chastity.
We pray to the Lord.
5. That we may be guided to make choices that lead us to be more respectful to those around us, being aware of all people and their needs.
We pray to the Lord.
6. That government officials will protect human life from conception to natural death.
We pray to the Lord.
7. That we may be good examples of God's presence in the world as the helping hands and eyes for others.
We pray to the Lord.
8. That we may be aid those who need help, care for the unfortunate, and give comfort to those in sorrow.
We pray to the Lord.
9. That we may help others grow closer to God through devotion to the Eucharist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
We pray to the Lord.

Theology of the Body

“Be fertile and multiply.”
- Genesis 1:28

The Issue:

Pope John Paul II proclaimed over and over again that each human that each persons, having been made in the image and likeness of God is called to holiness. All of us are called to love in the same way that God loves. The first family was founded on an act of love similar to the love of God. The resulting communion of persons, the family itself, is therefore, a representation of the Trinity – the three Persons in One God. This calling is an incredible blessing and gift to the human race, but it is also a challenge. We are all called to love as God loves, to imitate the very life and love of the Creator Himself. Unfortunately, many families in our society are no longer convinced of their noble vocations. Our culture, often, does not support the vision of the family that was modeled by the Holy Family of Nazareth. Many families need support from their church communities. Sadly, violations against love attack the family, and desecrate the sacred love of husband and wife.

Resources for further review, information or research:

According to the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage & Family (*at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC*) - Graduate School, “A longtime philosopher-friend of Karol Wojtyla once said that Wojtyla had always been occupied with understanding the human person in terms of love. The mission of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, in a profound sense, begins here, in this abiding conviction of the Holy Father that love reveals the meaning of the person and, through the person, of all "flesh," the whole of creation (cf. *Familiaris consortio*, 11; *Redemptor hominis*, 10; *Dominum et vivificantem*, 50). This conviction finds its paradigmatic expression in the great text of the Second Vatican Council:

"In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear... Christ...in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to himself...." (*Gaudium et spes*, 22).

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute is devoted to the study of this truth about the human person in all of its dimensions: theological, philosophical, anthropological, and indeed cosmological-scientific. The Institute centers its study of the person in the community that is the original cell of human society: marriage and family (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2207; *Letter to Families*, 13).” The Institute offers degree programs: The Master of Theological Studies in Marriage and Family (M.T.S.), The Master of Theological Studies in Biotechnology and Ethics (M.T.S.), The Licentiate in Sacred Theology of Marriage and Family ((S.T.L.), The Doctorate on Sacred Theology with specialization in Marriage and Family (S.T.D.), The Doctorate in Theology with a Specialization in person, Marriage and Family (Ph.D.) (this is a great resource for those graduating from college and looking to pursue graduate studies and also as a resource for speakers)

Books:

John Paul II . *The Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan*. Boston: Pauline Books, 1997.
(this was the original book)

John Paul II, translation by Michael Waldstein. *Man and Woman, He Created Them: A Theology of the Body by John Paul II*. Boston: Pauline Books, 2006.

West, Chrisotpher. *Theology of the Body for Beginners: A Basic Introduction to Pope John Paul II's Sexual Revolution*. West Chester, Pennsylvania, Ascension Press, 2009.

West, Christopher. *Theology of the Body Explained: A Commentary on John Paul II's man and Woman He Created Them*, Boston: Pauline Books, 2007.

John Paul II, adapted by Sam Tarode. *Theology of the Body in Simple Language*. Philokalia Books, 2008.

Anderson, Carl & Granados, Jose. *Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II's Theology of the Body*. Doubleday, 2009.

Butler, Brian & Evert, Jason & Crystalina Evert. *Theology of the Body for Teens*. 2006.
(also Leaders Guide and a Parent Guide published in 2008.)

Hogan, Richard M. *The Theology of the Body in John Paul II; What it Means, Why it Matters*. Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2006.

Zeno, Katrina. *The Body Reveals God: A Guided Study through John Paul II's Theology of the Body*.

Percy, Anthony. *The Theology of the Body Made Simple*. Boston: Pauline Books, 2005.

Doyle, Karen. *Theology of the Body: some thoughts and reflections*. Boston: Pauline Books, 2009.

Doyle, Karen. *The Genius of Womanhood*. Boston: Pauline Books, 2009.

Kellmeyer, Steven. *Sex and the Sacred City - Meditations on the Theology of the Body*. Peoria, Illinois: Bridegroom Press. 2003.

Pinto, Matthew & Lickona, Lisa. *Freedom: 12 Lives Transformed by the Theology of the Body*. 2009.

Healy, Mary. *Men and Women are from Eden: A Study Guide to John Paul II's Theology of the Body*. 2005 (we had Ms. Healy as a speaker at our Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of Washington DC meeting a couple of years ago)

Pamphlets:

“*What is the Theology of the Body and How Can it Change My Life*”. Ascension Press, 2009.
(there are other pamphlets available through Ascension Press)

Publishers:

Pauline Books & Media. Boston. www.pauline.org

Ascension Press. www.ascensionpress.com (Christopher West's media company)

Our Father's Will Communications. www.theologyofthebody.net

Real Love Productions. www.reallove.net (Mary Beth Bonnaci – resources for teenagers)

Websites:

www.christopherwest.com

www.theologyofthebody.com

www.ewtn.com (lists JP II's audiences on the TOB – short summaries)

www.aquinasandmore.com

DVDs, Audio CDs:

Zeno, Katrina. *The Gift of the Body*

Zeno, Katrina. *Mary and the Theology of the Body*.

www.giftfoundation.org

Other Related Publications:

Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan, A Pastoral Letter of the USCCB 2009

The Dignity of a Person (Dignitas Personae) with additional resources. Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. USCCB, 2009

Mulieris Dignitatem: On the Dignity & Vocation of Women, John Paul II.

Organizations: (taken from resource section of *Theology of the Body for Beginners*)

The Alexander House a non-profit, lay apostolate dedicated to marriage education and enrichment through the teachings of the Catholic Church, especially John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

www.alexanderhouse.org.

Family Honor provides resources and program based on the Theology of the Body to help parents and children grow together in understanding of God's plan for life and human sexuality.

www.familyhonor.org

Theology of the Body Evangelization Team (TOBET)

www.tobet.org.

Theology of the Body Institute

www.Tobinstitute.org

Theology of the Body International Alliance

www.theologyofthebody.net (click on "TOBIA")

Love and Responsibility Foundation

www.catholicculture.com

Women Affirming Life – Professor Mary Shivanandan (renowned professor) of the John Paul II Institute

www.affirmlife.com

Women of the Third Millennium (WTTM)

(Katrina Zeno and Zoe Romanowsky)

www.wttm.org

Faith Formation:

West, Christopher. *Introduction to the Theology of the Body: An Adult Faith Formation program based on John Paul II's Theology of the Body*. 2004.

Prayer for Purity of Heart (Christopher West from his website)

Lord, help me to accept and receive my sexuality as a gift from you. Grant me the grace to resist the many lies that distort this divine gift and help me to live my sexuality according to the truth of self-giving love. Grant me purity of heart so that I might see the image of your glory in the beauty of others, and one day see you face to face. Amen.

Other Subjects to Consider: 1) Teachings of the Church on Marriage and Same-Sex Unions and 2) Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Marriage

“All people feel the interior impulse to love authentically: love and truth never abandon them completely, because these are the vocation planted by God in the heart and mind of every human person. The search for love and truth is purified and liberated by Jesus Christ from the impoverishment that our humanity brings to it, and he reveals to us in all its fullness the initiative of love and the plan for true life that God has prepared for us.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*

The issue:

The institution of marriage is a gift from God, which began with Adam and Eve, man and woman. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament and has a dual purpose, a union between man and woman, and for the creation of children to form a family unit. In recent years the institution of marriage and family have been under attack, threatening to destroy the beautiful gift and blessing God bestowed on man and woman.

Resources for further information, review and research:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops pastoral letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan* is a written to help individuals who believe in the vocation of marriage. Also, *Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan* was developed by the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). To order a copy of this 60 page document, please visit www.usccbpublishing.org.

Mrs. Lorrie Gramer, The National Marriage Pastoral, Implementation CTE, will be responsible for much of the programing coming from the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter on “Marriage, Life and Love in the Divine Plan.” www.usccb.org

USCCB website, “Celebrating Marriage”

There is much research to indicate that children who grow up in a home with two parents who joyfully and openly express their love for each other are much more likely to be positive, stable, productive individuals as adults.

<http://Foryourmarriage.org> (Spanish website: portumatrimonio.org)

A comprehensive website with information for dating couples, married couples, families and empty nesters including referrals to resources on parenting, a daily marriage tip and spiritual quote, a blog and free newsletter.

Further resources for *Families*:

Mrs. Christine Codden, chair of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers.
www.familylife.dpsrfd.org

Pope John Paul II, *On the Family (Familiaris Consortio)* www.usccb.org

Pope John Paul II, *On the Dignity and Vocation of Women (Mulieris Dignitatem)* www.usccb.org

<http://Foryourmarriage.org> (Spanish website: portumatrimonio.org)

A comprehensive website with information for dating couples, married couples, families and empty nesters including referrals to resources on parenting, a daily marriage tip and spiritual quote, a blog and free newsletter.

Pornography

“Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Matthew 20:28

The Issue:

- Approximately 40 million people in the U.S. are sexually involved with the Internet.
- 2.5 billion emails per day are pornographic.
- 20% of men and 13% of women admitted to accessing pornography at work.
- 70% of sexual advances over the Internet happened while youngsters were on a home computer.
- 23% of American adults believe “whether one likes it or not people should have full access to pornography under the Constitution’ First Amendment.”

Pornography is everywhere in our world. We can’t get away from it, and we must not ignore it. You may be exposed to pornography while in a drug or grocery store check out line featuring magazines and movies. Turning on a radio or television can connect you to sexual content in music and television programs. Choosing a movie involves sorting through titles, ratings and reviews with sexually explicit or suggestive content. You may even be eyed by someone with sexually-oriented thoughts while walking down a street, visiting with a neighbor, or in your own home. Cell phones are also used to send messages and photos with sexual connotations. Pornography totally surrounds us and is an ever-expanding industry.

Pornography as a Threat to Human Dignity

God creates each human in His likeness. Pornography misuses God’s gifts of the human body and is offensive to Him and to others. It is sinful, distorting of love, relationships and freedom of choice – all gifts from God.

Pornography, relating to sexual behavior, is a threat to human dignity of both individuals and groups. The dignity of the human person includes our sexuality, connecting us to an ability to give of ourselves in love to another person. Pornography affects sexual mores, impacts marriages and family relationships, and branches out publicly into culture and society. It pervades rights, feelings and attitudes and is dehumanizing as it affects modesty and chastity. It promotes sexual gratification in thinking and viewing others in relationship interchanges and actions. It exploits others for personal satisfaction, making them objects of sexual interest and actions.

Historic Perspective

Pornography is not new to society as historically etchings, art, writings, theater, photography, music, publications and more have alluded to sexual interactions for multiple centuries. What has significantly changed, particularly since the arrival of Internet, is the degree of accessibility and exposure, either deliberate or accidental. Cultural tolerance of sexual references remains varied, with some condoning and others condemning and punishing.

Over time, laws have changed allowing more tolerance toward public obscenity such as photographs showing nude bodies, and releases of books which previously were considered obscene. Models and

magazines changed as a result. Adult paperbacks, romance and crime stories developed around sexually related lines. Dial-a-porn was created. Distribution of pornographic materials ultimately became more generally affordable and “entertaining”.

Accessibility to pornography has gone beyond going out to buy a magazine or rent a video at times when stores were open. It used to be more of a private issue, but technology caused it to become more public. Pornography is now readily accessible twenty four hours a day. It reaches broad ranges of community, is shared in videos and chat rooms, reflects detailed images, can be witnessed as if present –all embellished with music, color, sound and movement. People can accidentally be exposed to pornography through computer pop-up windows, misrepresented links, misspelled URLs and auto links that come attached to e-mails. The home environment is very frequently the most common place to consume pornography.

Statistics:

Statistics report the real impact that pornography has on males and females. Science research and surveys give statistics.

- There are more than 260 million pages of porn on the Internet. According to Google statistics, this is 7% of the 3.3 billion pages on the web
- CBS news reported that at any one time almost 30,000 people are viewing pornography on the Internet. Of the total number of people that see pornography, four-million say they are addicted.
- The U.S. Customs Service estimates that 100,000 websites offer illegal child pornography.
- Internet Filter Review statistics from 2006 noted the total porn industry revenue to be \$13.3 billion in the United States and \$97 billion worldwide.
- Statistics report that there are 40 million US adults who regularly visit internet pornography websites.
- A 2004 report noted that eleven years old is the average age of first Internet exposure to pornography.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children stated that incidents of child sexual exploitation rose from 4,573 in 1998 to 112,083 in 2004.
- Another report noted that sex is the number 1 topic searched in the Internet. *Overdosing on Porn*, Rebecca Hagelin, www.worlandi.com, March, 2004. She also reported that there were 800 million rentals each year of adult videos and DVDs.
- Among underage viewers of pornography, children 12 years old to 17 years old are the largest consumers of Internet pornography, according to another 2004 report. 90% of 8-16 year olds using the Internet have viewed pornography on line, mostly while doing homework.

A website sponsored by the Lighted Candle Society provides reports on recent research and statistics surrounding pornography. (<http://www.lightedcandle.org/pornstates/science.asp>)

- One study revealed that roughly two-thirds of young men and one half (49%) of young women agree that viewing pornography is acceptable, whereas nearly 9 out of 10 (87%) young men and nearly one third (31%) of young women reported using pornography.
(Generation XXX: Pornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults, Journal of Adolescent Research, Vol 23, No. 1, 6-30 (2008))
- Studies note that a relationship exists between frequent pornography consumption and sexually aggressive behavior. This behavior is noted to be especially strong for those with a high “predisposing” risk for sexual aggression.
(“Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Are there Reliable Effects and Can We Understand Them?” Annual Review of Sex Research Vol. 11, Number, 200 Page(s) 26-94)
- In a study published in 2007, it reported that forty-two percent of youth Internet users had been exposed to online pornography in the past year. Of those, 66% reported only unwanted exposure.
(Unwanted and Wanted Exposure to Online Pornography in a National Sample of Youth Internet Users; Janis Wolak, JD, Kimberly Mitchell, PhD and David Finkelhor, PhD; 2007)
- Seventy-one percent of adolescents surveyed believed pornography consumption influenced others’ behavior, and 29 percent believed it affected their own behavior.
(“Associations Between Pornography Consumption and Sexual Practices Among Adolescents in Sweden”, International Journal of STD and AIDS Vol. 16, Number 2. February, 2005 Page(s) 102-107.)
- Yet another study noted that people who reported being happily married were 61 percent less likely to report using Internet pornography.
(“Adult Social Bonds and Use of Internet Pornography” – Social Science Quarterly Vol. 85, Number 1. March, 2004. Page(s) 75-88).

Effects of Pornography:

Sexual stimulation from viewing pornography releases dopamine, which can result in a dopamine “high.” Pornographic exposure can prompt early sexual intercourse; changes in sexual behavior; advances in sexual activities; porno addiction; compulsive and aggressive behavior; exploitation of individuals, especially women and children; and committing crime. Other side effects of porn consumption include maxing out of credit cards, lost sleep, neglecting responsibilities and disregard of loved ones.

Pornography is believed to harm relationships between men and women, making some partner’s feel as if they are treated as objects. Pornography wreaks physical, emotional and spiritual harm within the person, and leads persons not to serve, but to be served. Pornographic photos and videos dwell on the mechanics of actions but cannot convey what humans are feeling.

“Can Do” Actions and Efforts:

Action is an important part of the history of the National Council of Catholic Women. It is also a key word in our mission statement. Council programs have been established repeatedly in response to needs and concerns related to the Church and society. Once again, council women can serve a vital role in addressing varied issues related to pornography.

There are a number of activities that individuals and councils can undertake to support human dignity through efforts to educate, influence legislation, communicate and mentor against pornography in modern society. Consider the following:

- Promote positive self concept in persons.
- Get involved in creating social justice.
- Become knowledgeable of companies which support pornography. The Anti-Pornography League lists these companies – (you’ll be surprised). Let companies know what you think in relation to the profit they make from pornography promotion. Maintain a knowledge and vigilance of companies that are added to the list or that change attitudes and are removed from the lists. Gratefully acknowledge positive change.
- Monitor access to Internet sites.
- Communicate with companies sponsoring pornography including publishers, movie producers and theaters, stores offering ready access, advertising companies – wherever pornography is accessible or promoted. Shop and seek entertainment elsewhere.
- Initiate letter writing campaigns to companies and legislators to communicate your feelings related to efforts to promote or allow pornography.
- Observe the selection of magazines, books, movies and videos available in stores. Speak to store managers about removing those with pornographic presentation. Note the location of such – Example: at checkout points where all, especially children, have easy viewing access. Thank managers who do not promote the presence of sexually suggestive/pornographic materials in their stores. Reward the positive!
- Keep council women, friends and family informed of businesses to boycott for their support of pornography. Likewise, keep people informed of businesses which offer consideration of customers.
- Join anti-pornography leagues. Ex. antipornographyleague@hotmail.com.
- Brainstorm creative and new ways to address issues related to pornography.
- Study Church documents related to theology of the body, human dignity and social justice to be better informed of the impact of pornography on these.
- Foster discussions of issues related to pornography.
- Vote for legislators who promote respect and consideration for human dignity and a healthy culture.
- Invite speakers to give programs related to pornography issues.
- Work for laws which relate to access of technology, freedom of speech, sexual aggression.

- Pray for people whose lives have been influenced, affected and harmed from exposure to pornography or to persons with pornographic interests/addictions.
- Be willing to stand up for what you believe in; for what is wrong; for what exploits and harms individuals, for your rights, and those of children, for a porn-free world. Let people know that pornography is NOT OKAY.
- Sign petitions against pornographic promotion and accessibility.
- Design a brochure or information page to distribute through your parish, deanery, arch/diocesan councils to inform others about pornography.
- Know that one person CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE and a council CAN MAKE A GREATER DIFFERENCE working together.
- Be a mentor and role model to children, teens and young adults toward safe use of the Internet, cell phones and other forms of technology.
- Promote filters for computers.
- Consider Jesus' teachings on respect and love of neighbors.
- Promote good books, movies and entertainment. Create a list of reviews which can be shared in your parish, schools, and kept as a reference at home.
- Become familiar with acronyms used in communications, such as WTGP (want to go private?), POS (parent over shoulder) and others.
- Be knowledgeable of children's Internet passwords, instant messaging nicknames and e-mail addresses.
- Bishop Robert W. Finn of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph shares ways to respond to pornography in *Blessed Are The Pure In Heart: A Pastoral Letter on the Dignity of the Human Person and the Dangers of Pornography* (February 21, 2007) They include:
 1. Avoid a secretive or enticing environment
 2. Eliminate pornographic materials
 3. Be good stewards of time, especially idle time
 4. Know personal weaknesses
 5. Develop a plan to grow holy as a disciple
 6. Make a commitment to daily prayer
 7. Frequently participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and reception of Holy Communion
 8. Form habits of daily examination of conscience and frequent confession
 9. Utilize good spiritual reading
 10. Enhance awareness of the presence of God – dedicating self to God each day
 11. Develop a plan for holiness with temperance in the exercise of sexual appetites; modesty as decency and discretion in dress, action and speech; purity in relationships; and chastity in loving and respecting people.

National Council of Catholic Women parish, deanery, arch/diocesan affiliates and individual members live in all parts of the United States of America and are capable of making significant contributions against pornography. Design a plan to get involved now to promote the human dignity of all persons.

Resources for further review, information and research:

National Coalition for the Protection and Children and Families

Throughout the world there are many families being torn apart dealing with the issues of pornography. It is a multi-billion dollar organization and it is readily available on your TV; Internet; Movies; Magazines; and Cell Phones. National Coalition for The Protection of Children & Families is an organization which strives to “to move the people of God to embrace, live out, preserve and advance the truth of biblical sexuality.” The National Coalition has information that can help families with resources and services.

For information on pornography contact the National Coalition at www.nationalcoalition.org or HelpLine at (800) 583-2964. In particular, a good resource is a series entitled, *What Every Parent Needs To Know About....* (\$10) (ie. Addressing the Sexualized Culture, Raising Kids in a XXX Culture, Wireless Technology and Mobile Entertainment, Leaving a Godly Legacy are examples of resources in this series).

Also available is a Cultural Apologetics Series which offers defensible answers which affirm biblical truths on a range of moral and ethical issues (\$9.95)

It’s Not Your Fault.... The One You Loves Uses Porn (\$.75)

Sex Addiction: Too Much of a Good Thing (\$.75) addresses the misconception that pornography is not addictive by providing statistics and research.

White Ribbon Against Pornography – WRAP Campaign www.moralityinmedia.org

Morality in Media asks every American concerned about the floodtide of pornography pouring into our nation’s communities, homes, and children’s minds to participate in the WRAP Campaign. According to this group, of which NCCW is a part, “Fighting pornography is a year-round challenge, To Win the War Against Obscenity, We must Fight All Year Long!”

I Care...About protecting children

Contact the *I Care...about protecting children* at www.nationalcoalition.org or call (513) 521-6227 or call the HelpLine: (800) 583-2964. This organization is part of the National Coalition for The Protection of Children & Families and their purpose is to “call Christian women and their families to prayer and action for the protection of our children and young people from sexual exploitation” by:

- sexualized media messages
- exposure to pornography
- sexual predators
- sex trafficking
- molestation
- sex slavery

In addition, the organization asks us to “to educate women to the immediate danger of sexual exploitation and experimentation made possible by advanced technologies.”

To mobilize women to join together and provide them effective action steps to protect the nation’s children and youth, the organization provides resources such as *ICare Action Steps, Questions at Point of Purchase, Safe Use Agreement, and Using Family Friendly Internet Service Providers.*

Sex and Cell Phones: Protect Your Children – This resource booklet is intended to help Christian leaders and parents make wise choices as they purchase devices for children (\$1.00)

You can sign-up for regular email information about the latest in the fast paced world of technology, helpful hints as to the correct filtering systems to place on your children’s cell phone and or computers.

White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) Week

Morality in Media asks every American concerned about the floodtide of pornography pouring into our nation's communities, homes, and children's minds to participate in the White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) Week, which usually runs in late October. and whenever possible to take action against pornography throughout the year.

Here are Action Steps you can take during WRAP Week and throughout the year:

1. Display White Ribbons...Wear a WRAP lapel pin...Put a WRAP magnet on your car!To order WRAP enamel lapel pins and WRAP car magnets, go online to www.wrapfamily.com To order plastic lapel ribbons [30 cents each, with minimum order of 100] contact: The Burbridge Foundation, 3701 NW 42, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 Tel: (405) 946-3698 Email: BobBurLane@aol.com
2. Make copies of the “What you can do to combat pornography” during WRAP Week and throughout the year flyer and distribute to members of your church or other sympathetic religious/community organization (can be folded as a bulletin insert) and to the general public (e.g., in front of a store that sells pornography or at a shopping mall). It's an inexpensive way to get the word out! [MSWORD](#) and [PDF](#)
3. Use the WRAP letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder available in the [MSWORD](#) and [PDF](#) format.
4. Ask your Governor, State Legislature, Mayor, or City Council to issue a Proclamation in conjunction with the White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign. A model Proclamation, which you can photocopy and give to others, is available in the [MSWORD](#) and [PDF](#) format.
5. Ask your state prosecutor to enforce state obscenity laws. A model request letter, which you can photocopy and give to others, is available in [MSWord](#) and [PDF](#) formats. If you don't know who your state prosecutor is, contact your local police department. Alaska, Maine, New Mexico, Vermont and W. Virginia do not have a statewide obscenity law, and Montana and S. Dakota have unworkable laws. These states need new obscenity laws. [Maine, New Mexico and S. Dakota allow local control of obscenity.] In Oregon and Hawaii, state courts invalidated [OR] or gutted [HA] obscenity laws. These states need to amend their state constitutions. Morality in Media's legal department can help draft a new or amended state obscenity law or, if the State Supreme Court has invalidated the law, an amendment to a state constitution.

6. Tell others about the www.ObscenityCrimes.org website. Use the text at this link to promote ObscenityCrimes.org as a model for a letter to family, friends, church or other organization members or to the editor of your local newspaper. Complaints about Internet pornography submitted to the website are forwarded to the Justice Department and to the U.S. Attorney in each federal district where a complaint originated. Available in [MSWord](#) and [PDF](#) formats. NOTE: IF YOU RECEIVE A REPLY FROM YOUR GOVERNOR OR PROSECUTOR, PLEASE SEND A COPY TO: MORALITY IN MEDIA, 475 RIVERSIDE DR., STE. 1264, NEW YORK, NY 10115.

www.WRAP. Org

At the White Ribbon Against Pornography web site, www.WRAP.or, articles and resources for further research are available.

Some examples include:

[Utah-based 'Communities for Decency' Takes White Ribbon Against Pornography \(WRAP\) Campaign to New Heights](#) Article by Alexandra Strelow

[How Lancaster, Pa. participates in WRAP](#)

This article will give you ideas for organizing a local WRAP Campaign.

[Bobbie Burbridge Lane Has a Plan for WRAP Week and Beyond](#)

Mrs. Lane is president of the Burbridge Foundation in Oklahoma City and chair of Fight Against Pornography, American Mothers, Inc.

[Sample Prayers for WRAP Week](#)

[Sample Sermons for WRAP Week](#)

Ask your priest, minister, or rabbi to use these as notes for preaching against pornography, especially during Pornography Awareness Week.

[Join the Fight Against Pornography!](#)

Here's some wise words from Betty Wein (1927-1994) on why your efforts are needed in the fight against porn. Until her passing, Betty was the public affairs director of Morality in Media.

[How the White Ribbon Campaign Began](#)

The White Ribbon Campaign was created by a dedicated woman in 1987. Find out what she did.

Additional helpful Information:

[The Porn Problem and Solutions](#)

[Help for Porn Victims and Addicts](#)

[Help for Parents](#)

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

http://missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US

Internet safety resources include:

Communications Package

Online sexual exploitation prevention information, tips on how to talk to your kids, and a list of commonly used chat acronyms

Keeping Kids Safer on the Internet

Safety tips for families whose children use online services

Know the Rules...Internet Safety Quiz for Adults

Tips for parents and guardians about how to make their children's online visits safer

NetSmartz Brochure

Information about this innovative website that educates children about online safety and real-world safety

Online Victimization

Groundbreaking national survey focusing on children's use of the Internet

Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later

Second groundbreaking national survey focusing on children's use of the Internet

Your Kids Can Fill in the Blanks. Can You?

Tips on how families can help protect their children from online sexual exploitation

“Parental Controls that Keep Tabs on Young Web Surfers”

http://www.cnet.com/4520-13384_1-6721000-1.html?tag=mncol

“Parental Controls” <http://www.ksag.org/page/parental-controls>

“Parents Puzzle Over Cell Phone Use”

<http://apps.detnews.com/apps/blogs/askthechildpsychologist/index.php?blogid=62>

“Parents Must Be Responsible for Their Kids Cell Phone Use”

<http://pcmike.com/2008/10/17/parents-must-be-responsible-for-their-kids-cell-phone-use/>

Human Trafficking

We pledge to use our teaching authority to educate Catholics and others about human trafficking.

- *Bishop Barnes,
Chairman of the US Bishops Committee on Migration*

The issue:

Contrary to a common assumption, human trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and citizens of foreign nationals, male or female. According to U.S. government estimates, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked to the United States for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation. An unknown number of U.S. Citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country primarily for the sexual servitude and, to a lesser extent, forced labor. The National Council of Catholic Women is a partner organization on the USCCB's Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking.

How Does Human Trafficking Affect Our School?

Trafficking can involve school-aged children – particularly those not living with their parents – who are vulnerable to coerced labor exploitation, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual exploitation (i.e., prostitution).

Sex traffickers target children because of their vulnerability and gullibility, as well as the market demand for young victims. Those who recruit minors into prostitution violate the federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no coercion or movement across state lines. The children at risk are not just high school students – students demonstrate that pimps prey on victims as young as 12. Traffickers have been reported targeting their minor victims through telephone chat-lines, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using girls to recruit other girls at schools and after-school programs.

How to Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking?

- Has unexplained absences from school for a period of time, and is therefore a truant.
- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis
- Chronically runs away from home.
- Makes reference to frequent travel to other cities.
- Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, or fear
- Lacks control over his or her schedule or identification documents
- Is hungry-malnourished or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Demonstrates a sudden change of attire, has expensive items, older boyfriend (Ten years plus) is labeled “fast” by peers.

How Do I Report a Suspected Incidence of Human Trafficking?

- In cases of immediate emergencies, it is best to call your local police department or emergency access number.
- You can report suspected trafficking crimes or get help by calling the national 24/7 toll-free Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888. This center will help you determine if you have encountered a victim of human trafficking; identify local resources available in community to help victims; and coordinate with local social service providers to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of rehabilitation and restoring their lives. When appropriate, the Resource Center makes referrals to local organizations that assist with counseling case management, legal advice, and other appropriate services, as well as to law enforcement agencies that helped trapped victims reach safety.
- For sexually exploited or abused minors call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) hotline at 1-800-The-Lost to be connected with the most appropriate assistance in your area. You can report suspected instances of worker exploitation by contacting the FBI field office nearest you. Or by contacting the Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Office at 1-888-428-7581.

How Does the United States Help Victims of Human Trafficking?

The U.S. government supports a victim-centered approach. It funds a national awareness campaign and a number of non-governmental organizations that assist victims. The U.S. government seriously pursues human trafficking cases and prosecutes the traffickers. For a complete assessment of U.S. government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, visit the U.S. Department of Justice website: www.usdoj.gov.

The past year, marked by the onset of global financial crisis, has raised the specter of increased human trafficking around the world. Two current trends – a shrinking global demand for labor and a growing supply of workers willing to take ever greater risks for economic opportunities – seem a recipe for greater forced labor of migrant workers and commercial exploitation of women in prostitution.

Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to exploit a person for profit, whether through labor exploitation – which claims the largest number of victims.

Victims and Trafficking

(UN International Labor Organization Estimates)

12.3 million adults and children at any time, in forced labor and sexual servitude.

1.3 million victims of sex trafficking both national and transnational

56% of forced labor victims are women and girls

The 2009 TIP Report

The annual TIP report covers the period April 2008 to March 2009. The report uses a four-tier ranking system to register improvement and decline in governments' efforts to combat trafficking. Some highlights of the report are:

- Human trafficking is prevalent throughout the world as shown the Reports expanded coverage to 175 countries.
- Subtle but potent forms of coercion are often used against victims, including threats of deportation or imprisonment, or severe reputational and financial harm that make them feel they have no choice but to continue service.
- Factors contributing to trafficking include fraudulent recruitment practices, excessive recruitment fees and debt, and lack of legal protection for migrants.
- There remains a large disparity between the large global problem of forced labor and the low numbers of prosecutions and convictions of labor trafficking crimes (less than 10% of all convictions).

TIP Successes

During the reporting period, 26 countries enacted new anti-trafficking legislation. More than half of the world's countries have enacted criminal legislation prohibiting all forms of trafficking persons.

Resources for further review, information and research:

One of the best ways to help combat human trafficking is to raise awareness and learn more about how to identify victims. Your chapter can reach out to help refugees and asylees, helping with resettlement, children's or travel services. Information on human trafficking can be found on the following websites:

U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html>

U.S. Department of Justice
<http://www.ovc.gov/help/tip.htm>
<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/trafficking.html>
http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwdo_ctpi.html

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Investigative Programs, Crimes Against Children
<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/cac/crimesmain.htm>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

<http://www.ncmec.org>

Polaris Project

<http://www.polarisproject.org>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/resources.shtml>

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml> (website)

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/docs/OnHumanTrafficking.pdf>

US IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT Office of Investigations, Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling

In the fight against human smuggling and trafficking, ICE has developed highly successful initiatives that focus on attacking the infrastructure that supports smuggling organizations as well as the assets that are derived from these criminal activities. This might include seizing currency, property, weapons, and vehicles.

One of the new tools that helps ICE fight human smuggling and trafficking is the issuance of Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act (CAFRA) notices to property owner whose properties have been identified as being used to facilitate smuggling or harboring aliens. This is an important tool because many employers turn a blind eye to criminal activities such as slave labor on their properties.

Seeking to bring an end to criminal activity and protect children worldwide, ICE developed Operation Predator in 2003, an initiative to identify, investigate and arrest child predators and sexual offenders.

Coordinated nationally and internationally, Operation Predator brings together an array of ICE disciplines and resources to target child abusers. As part of the effort ICE has created a National Child Victim Identification System in partnership with the National Center of Missing Children, the FBI, U.S. Post Office, U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces and other agencies. ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators any suspicious activity through its toll free hotline 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The hotline is staffed around the clock.

Immigration

“The baby Jesus was a refugee who, along with the Holy Family, fled the terror of Herod into Egypt.”

- The Gospel according to Matthew

The issue:

Conditions in a person’s homeland should permit him or her to work and support his or her family in dignity and safety. When people are unable to find work and support themselves and their families, they have a right to migrate to other countries to work. According to Church teachings, nations have an obligation to the universal common good, and powerful economic nations, such as the US have an even higher obligation to service. Sadly, in many parts of our country and around the world, persons who flee their home countries are not afforded safe haven and protection in another country. Conflict and political unrest often force people to leave their homes for fear of death or harm. The National Council of Catholic Women serves as a founding member of the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Campaign.

Myths about Immigrants:

Myth #1: Immigrants don’t pay taxes. This is false. Immigrants pay taxes in the form of income, property, sales, and in other ways. Many studies find that immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes.

Myth #2: Immigrants take jobs and opportunities away from Americans. This, too, is false. Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs for US and foreign workers, and foreign-born students allow many U.S. graduate programs to keep their doors open.

Myth #3: Immigrants are a drain on the U.S. economy. In fact, 70% of immigrants arrive in prime working age. This means, we haven’t spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted in to our workforce and will contribute \$500 million to our social security system.

Resources for further review, information and research:

Justice for Immigrants Campaign

The NCCW is a Core Member of the USCCB Justice for Immigration Campaign. The JFI has developed a series of resources that discuss a wide range of topics related to immigration. These educational tools include information on how to reach out to the media, tips for pastors who are developing homilies on immigration related issues, and a fact sheet debunking commonly held myths that some opponents of reform claim are facts. The web site also includes information from the Bishops asking for justice and human dignity to be shown to the immigrants who are in our country.

JFI Parish kits

The Justice for Immigrants Campaign has developed a series of resources that discuss a wide range of topics related to immigration. These educational tools include information on how to reach out to the media, tips for pastors who are developing homilies on immigration related issues, and a fact sheet debunking commonly held myths that some opponents of reform claim are facts. Go to <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org> to order.

Climate Change and Its Effect on the Poor

“Today, the great gift of God’s Creation is exposed to serious dangers and lifestyles which can degrade it. Environmental pollution is making particularly unsustainable the lives of the poor of the world. In dialogue with Christians of various confessions, we must pledge ourselves to take care of creation and to share its resources in solidarity.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

The issue:

Long before most of us acknowledged the seriousness of climate change, the Church was pointing out the problem and urging us to look at it in the light of faith. As early as 1990 Pope John Paul II warned us that our destruction of the environment bespoke a profound disrespect for life. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops recognizes that the consequences of climate change hit “the least of our brothers” the hardest. “In a special way, the common good requires solidarity with the poor who are often without the resources to face many problems, including the potential impacts of climate change.”

NCCW is a member of the Steering Committee of the Catholic Coalition for Climate Change. The coalition believes that too few people are linking the care of creation with the concern for those in poverty, and we have joined together to ensure that these links are made. The Council asks its members to join with thousands of other Catholics all over the country to take the St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor.

Resources for further review, information and research:

Visit the U.S. Catholic Coalition for Climate Change website for more information and to view and sign the St. Francis Pledge. www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

The NCCW and Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) offers the people of the United States the opportunity to reach out and help others less fortunate around the world. Programs that provide both emergency relief and long term development help them to achieve that goal.

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) has worked with CRS since 1946. Through the Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation Programs, a unique partnership between CRS and NCCW, our Council members strive to assist women and children in developing countries. The Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation include four programs:

The Madonna Plan

This program helps women to achieve financial security, enabling them to provide a better life for themselves and their children. Under the Madonna Plan, the three main areas addressed are health, education and financial security. The Plan provides assistance in financing and training to enable women to establish small businesses. These businesses stabilize the economy of the village and region, allowing women to send their children to school and to provide for the basic necessities of life for their families.

The Refugee Women's Emergency Fund

This component of the Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation programs provides medicine, shelter, food and water as well as training for women who are refugees, internally displaced persons, or victims of natural disasters.

Water For Life

This program provides clean safe water to areas where women previously often had to walk several miles each day to try to obtain potable water for their families. Funds are used for the establishment of wells or bore holes and for training so that the water projects can survive and provide for basic hygiene and drinking and cooking purposes.

Help a Child

This program assists children in developing countries through the provision of community-based programs that offer education, day care and youth centres and aid for disabled and vulnerable children.

In addition to the above programs, the National Council of Catholic Women works to educate its members concerning the issues impacting women and children around the world, offering seminars and resource packets based upon information from agencies such as Catholic Relief Services. To that end, Council enables its members to advocate effectively against such injustices as human trafficking, landmine use, and global hunger.

“It gives me a sense of pride to know that the efforts of CRS and the National Council of Catholic Women, to raise awareness about the challenges people face in different countries around the world, opens doors for women and girls that would otherwise remain closed,” says Joan Neal, CRS vice president for U.S. Operations.

To see how you can help, visit www.crs.org as well as learning more through your local Council about the NCCW Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation alliance with Catholic Relief Services. Learn how you can make a difference in our world