



Christian Outreach Department
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Dear Group Leader,

We look forward to seeing you and your group at one of the 2017 Steubenville Youth Conferences! We wanted to share with you two topics that will be addressed in our programming this summer.

The first is a workshop option titled, "Elevate Social Media." Because the youth are immersed in social media, we are excited to speak to the culture in which they live. The goal is to meet the youth where they are, helping them to use social media in moderation and for good. We want to show them that Christ can be a part of social media and it can be a tool for evangelization. With the absence of entertainment, we also wanted to offer a workshop that could offer a good balance of content and interaction.

The youth will be encouraged to use their cell phones during the interactive portions of the workshop; however, anyone can attend, even if they do not have a cell phone with them. We have noted to the presenters that we would like for there to be take-aways even for those youth that do not have phones either on the weekend or in general. Even the youth without phones are affected by the culture and may use and view social media in other ways.

We are creating a hashtag, #elevatesocialmedia, that will be used during the conference and even after the weekend. The idea is to create a movement of positive, life-giving social media use. The presenters will also remind the youth not to be focused only on their phones for the rest of the weekend, but rather to really enter into what God has for them at the conference and be present to Him and one another. They can continue to use their social media in small ways over the weekend, but really the focus is for when they go home.

The second topic is a keynote on Saturday afternoon, right before dinner and small groups. It is called "Elevate Your Mind," and will first speak to the pornographic culture and then to pornography specifically. We continue to feel the need and responsibility to address some of the major issues in the culture today that are impacting the beliefs and behaviors of youth. Even if youth have not struggled with pornography, they have all been affected by the culture. We thought it beneficial for the men and women to hear this message together because it is a struggle for both genders. Pornography injures the dignity of men and women and so hearing this talk together will help them to understand how it harms the other as well. We want to elevate the dignity of the opposite gender and the gift of our sexuality. We have emphasized to the presenters the importance of presenting this keynote pastorally and with love. We want to emphasize the hope and freedom that can be found in Christ.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do for the youth. Know of our prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you and your ministry!

In Christ,
Sarah Bacza
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