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“If adult ministers use social media for personal use, they should establish separate sites and pages for personal and ministerial use. Personal pages and information should be neither advertised nor accessible to young people.” (Technology Guidelines of the Archdiocese).



**Employees and volunteers who work with youth must keep good boundaries!**

## Social Media: Why Parents Need to Look

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat. This is the 21st century form of communication. Social media is the wave of the future. All we see are kids with their phones in their hands and thumbs flying over keyboards. There is no doubt that social media has its benefits. It allows families to stay in touch. It also allows people with similar interests to share information and learn from each other. Social media is also a great form of entertainment by allowing people to play games, share video and music.

However, social media also presents many risks. Children, and some adults, don't realize the risks they take every time they log in, post, or send anything. Parents need to understand the risks in order to monitor social media appropriately.

**Some of the common risks are:**

**Sharing too much information is the most common risky behavior that kids today partake in online.**

Children don't realize that the world is watching what they post. Many youth have no privacy settings on whatever social media they are using, and therefore, post for the world to see. Youth must know what is appropriate and what is inappropriate content to share.

**Sharing passwords is common.**

Children should be told to always keep their passwords private. Cell phone numbers should never be "tweeted" out. Teen will commonly post things like this and then wonder why they are getting strange text messages and calls.

**Posting inappropriate pictures is probably the largest at-risk behavior that youth indulge in on the internet.**

These pictures can be used for blackmail, cause trouble at school, and work, and attract predators. Teens must remember once you hit "send" or "post", it stays on the internet FOREVER. Children have to realize that once that picture is sent, they have lost all control over where it ends up. A common repercussion of those inappropriate pictures in an online predator.

It is up to parents to monitor what their children are doing. Take a look at their cellphone, table or laptop now and then. If you see something that concerns you, talk to them about it. Contact local law enforcement if at any time you feel your child is being threatened or harassed by anyone online.

Facebook

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Instagram

Twitter