

To: Parents of the Students of St. Christopher's Preparatory High School
From: Rev. James Dugan, Principle; Sister Mary Alice McCormick, Vice Principle
Re: Expulsion of Student for Having Sex on School Property
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Dear St. Christopher's Parents,

As many of you have certainly been told by your children, two St. Christopher's students were expelled last Thursday, September 25th, for having sexual relations on school property. On Thursday morning at approximately 12:15 P.M., two tenth-grade students, Peter Bretter and Sarah Marshall were observed by Sister Mary Alice in a vacant classroom engaging in sexual relations. The students broke into the classroom during their lunch period and committed this sin. Upon walking into her classroom, Sister Mary Alice observed Ms. Marshall sitting on Mr. Bretter's lap, she observed the two students kissing and engaging in other acts that decorum prevents me from describing. Offended and appalled, she immediately came to my office to notify me. We immediately walked back to the classroom to confront the students, but they had already left. All we found was a prophylactic on the floor.

Likely feeling God's scorn, they were too ashamed to come to my office. Instead, I was forced to call them to my office over the loudspeaker system in order to deal with the situation accordingly. Both students were expelled from our school permanently. As paragraph 12 of the student handbook clearly states, student caught engaging in sexual activity will be expelled from St. Christopher's school permanently. The Bishop of our Archdiocese ratified our disciplinary decision.

While this is an isolated incident at St. Christopher's, there is a pervasive problem with today's youth when it comes to avoiding bodily temptations. I implore you to talk with your children about God's desire for us to avoid these temptations, as they may lead to a situation like we had here last week. We suggest the following:

- Do not fall prey to idle gossip or rumor. If you have questions or need information, call the school. If your call is not returned, call again.
- Speak to your children **individually**. As you well know, when children are with others, their behavior may not reflect what you have taught them. Remind your children that they need to be strong and follow the impeccable example that Jesus Christ has set for us. When faced with temptation, your children must turn to Christ's teachings.

- Ask yourself, am I speaking in front of my children about topics which should only be spoken about in front of adults? Are we, as parents, taking our child/children to Church enough? Am I allowing my child/children to view television programs that promote sex or inappropriate conduct?

We all need to take a step back during this time and examine our own consciences first. This is first and foremost a Catholic School and we are Catholics who are called to follow the teachings of our Lord. If each one of us were to arise tomorrow before our God, what would he say of us, whether parent, teacher, priest, or principal? We pray that God would be merciful with all of us. God bless you and keep you. May God's light shine upon you and may God grant all of us His peace.

Sincerely,

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Rev. James Dugan, Principal

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Sister Mary Alice McCormick, Vice Principal