

The Counselor's Corner

"If you see something you know shouldn't be there—or someone's behavior doesn't seem quite right—say something." (Homeland Security website)

We all need to be conscious at the airport when we see unattended bags or people who might be acting strange, but we must incorporate this motto into every aspect of our lives. We should begin by paying attention to what is being said on the internet. If a post suggests **violence**, it is often foreshadowing. Pictures of people with guns on the internet or statements of evil plans must be taken seriously. Report them to the police. Last week, a student in a different state saved lives. He contacted authorities; they searched the home of the suspected student and found an arsenal of weapons.

Sometimes, when people are **emotionally upset**, they turn to the internet. When we see something that suggests depression or people in a real crisis mode, we need to do something. Let a parent know what is going on. If the situation appears critical, call the police first.

In the last few years, we have learned much about **people who appear to be good, but they are not**. If you work for the Archdiocese of Detroit, you will have taken a course called "Protecting God's Children". Thankfully, most people are good, but this course shows us that there is always someone who has evil intentions, regardless of the profession. Lately, very famous actors and directors in Hollywood have been sued or fired; because they used their power to take advantage of men and women they should have been mentoring. The same is happening in the political arena.

Closer to home, Dr. Nassar, a husband, father, and man who had been held in high esteem for his work with Olympians, secretly wreaked havoc on the lives of many children and young adults. Understandably, many children were embarrassed and placed guilt on themselves. They lived in isolation until one of the victims, Rachel Denholder, filed a police report. She properly sized up the situation, and said that the only person who should bear shame and guilt is the adult. Her courage gave great example to over 100 women who came forth and testified. As a result, Dr. Nassar's new and permanent address is prison, and universities and trainers are now being investigated.

Any situation that is uncomfortable for a child needs to be investigated. Sometimes, the person acting inappropriately or inflicting pain is a peer. Many times a teacher will not be aware, because bad things generally happen on the playground, during lunch or recess, or when the teacher writes on the board. An entire class might stand mute, because students often confuse disclosing a wrong with tattling. Sometimes parents don't want to "rock the boat," and they refrain from reporting to the teacher and/or principal. After something big happens, many question why a school took so long to address an issue. It is quite ironic when students and/or parents have kept things to themselves. No one in authority has infused knowledge.

Whether we are dealing with Hollywood, the Olympics, neighbors, or classrooms, all uncomfortable situations need to be addressed. Be the person who "sees something and says something".

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