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Class: 8SL **Date:** September 27, 2013
Saint of the Day: St. Vincent de Paul

***Worth 15 points**

INSTRUCTIONS: Each month (September – March, with the exception of December) you are required to undertake a Christian examination of something from popular culture (examples listed below). Your goal is to highlight the deeper messages (good or bad) within the element from pop culture you chose and figure out what kind of action a trying-to-be-a-saint Christian should take.

***Important Note:** This does **NOT** give you free license to do anything your parents would not normally want you doing (Examples: watching bad TV shows, buying bad magazines/songs/music videos, etc.). For this assignment you should not have to go looking in deep and dark places. Rather, just keep your eyes and ears open as you go about your daily life.

A. Element from Pop Culture (1 pt.)

Did you choose an Advertisement? Book? Celebrity? Fashion trend? Magazine? Movie? Music video? News story? Phone app? Internet site/story/picture/video/trend? Video game? OTHER?

Magazine

B. Element Specifics (1 pt.)

Give the specifics of the element of pop culture that you chose.

**Example answer: I chose the song and music video "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus. This song is currently the #1 song and #2 music video in the world according to iTunes.*

I chose the magazine Teen Vogue, which I have seen when I go over to friends' houses and is something that I know people love to read.

C. CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION (10 pts)

- What kind of messages does your element give? (Good/bad/both?) Explain to support your answer.
- How do these messages compare to Christian teaching? WWJT? (What Would Jesus Think of this element?)

This magazine sends a mixture of good and bad messages, but unfortunately they are completely contradicting and hypocritical. It's a fashion magazine, and each issue contains an article, written by the editors, about "something that young women are dealing with today". In recent issues, these topics have included drugs, alcohol, college applications, having a boyfriend, and many others. These articles usually have a good message: encourage your friends not to drink or do drugs, don't stress yourself out to a breaking point over which college you'll get in to, wait until you're ready to have a relationship with someone. The funniest part is that six pages after the article, they'll publish an advertisement that is very clearly inappropriate and often in direct conflict to the view they just expressed in their featured piece.

I think that their articles are often in congruence with Christian teaching, but the pages and pages of ill-advised ads that sandwich them on either side take away somewhat from the overall message.

D. TAKE ACTION! (3 pts)

Based on my examination of this element from pop culture I, a trying-to-be-a-saint Christian, believe that I should... **read very carefully. I will continue to read or at least skim over their articles, but I am going to take note of the ads they choose to publish and be mindful of what I am "consuming".**