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Name: Sophia Doll
Class: 8A **Date:** 3/22/16
Saint of the Day: St. Dominic
(Pray for me!)

***Worth 20 points**

INSTRUCTIONS: Every other month (starting in September) you are asked 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 example 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.

THE BASICS

A. What kind of example from pop culture did you choose? (½ pt.)

***Example answers:** Advertisement, book, celebrity, fashion trend, magazine, movie, music video, news story, phone app, song, Internet trend, video game, etc.

Song

B. Give the specifics of the example of pop culture that you chose. (½ pt.)

***Example answer 1:** The song “Bang Bang” by Jessie J, Ariana Grande, and Nicki Minaj. This song is currently the #4 song (and #4 music video) in the world according to iTunes.

***Example answer 2:** I chose a billboard advertising beer. The billboard showed a picture of a woman not wearing many clothes drinking a beer and saying, “Let’s drink til’ the sun comes up.”

I chose the song "Humble and Kind" by Tim McGraw. It is currently number 8 on the top country songs according to Billboard.

C. How morally good/bad would you consider your example? (1 pt.)

***Example answer 1:** 75% good, 25% bad. / ***Example answer 2:** 10% good, 90% bad.

96% good and 4% bad

CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION

Put your Catholic goggles on and examine the example you chose.

What are its main messages? (3 pts.)

Tim McGraw wrote this song for his daughters as advice while they are growing up. Throughout this whole song, he gives good advice such as "Hold the door, say please, say thank you" and "Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't lie" and "Visit grandpa every chance that you can" and lots more. I think that the main messages are that life is tough and it can knock you down a lot but we always have to remember to stay humble and kind. No matter what happens, whether it is good or bad, we have to remember that God is always

on our side and we have to keep our head up. When something good happens to us, we are always allowed to feel good and feel the pride but we always have to remember to stay modest and have empathy for the people who had something bad happen to them. When something bad happens, we are allowed to feel down but we have to remember to stay kind and feel good for the people who had something good done to them. In all situations, we just have to stay humble and kind. I gave it 4% bad just because the album name and some other of Tim Mcgraw's song don't have the same message.

What would Jesus think about it? Why? (3 pts.)

I think that Jesus would like this song. This song isn't a christain song but it is very uplifting and has a nice message to it. Although most country songs don't present a good meaning to it, this song is not one of those songs. Most country songs talk about girls, beer, trucks, etc. and this is not what our life is all about. We have to focus on the bigger and more important things in our life. I think Jesus would like this song because it is not a typical country song and although it is not christain-based, it has a great message. I think people all over can change a lot by just listening to this song.

What kind of good and/or bad effects could this have on a person, community, or culture? (3 pts.)

I think that it can have good impact on everyone. It can help people to see that there is a positive side on everything. I think that people can learn to be more positive from this song and to learn to always be humble and kind in any situation. Nothing can be as bad as what Jesus went through and the least we can do for Him is instead of moping around over something that has gone wrong in your life, we should shake it off, go out into the world, and spread happiness and positivity and proclaim God's word. This song tells us that life is tough for everybody and we just have to stay humble and kind in any and every situation.

ACTION STEPS (9 pts.)

PERSONAL ACTION STEP: Based on my examination of this item from popular culture, this is what I can do to help *myself* be saintlier. (3 pts.)

I really like country music but I know that some of the songs don't have good messages. I have tried to find better songs to listen to and I have found some. This song included. I am going to keep listening to this song and the other good-messaged songs for a while and maybe delete the other "bad" songs from my playlist. I have put this song and "Break on Me" and "Bless the Broken Road" and "Chicken Fried" at the top of my playlist and I listen to them above any other song. I will keep listen to these songs for a long time!!

INTERPERSONAL ACTION STEP: Based on my examination of this item from popular culture, this is what I can do to help *those around me (parents, siblings, teachers, friends, teammates, etc.)* be saintlier. (3 pts.)

Whenever I am in my car, I have the aux. I always play country music and I play the songs I listed above all of the time. My family already knows all of these songs by heart and my dad actually introduced me to "Humble and Kind". My cousins are also very fond of country music and we always sing along to these types of songs. Although my friends do NOT like country music, I will still always play it around them :) They don't like it when I do that, but when I have the aux, I always do it anyway. I will keep telling them to actually listen to the lyrics. I will keep playing these songs a lot!!

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ACTION STEP: Based on my examination of this item from popular culture, this is what I can do to help *my community (school, town, etc.) and culture (the behaviors and beliefs in America)* be saintlier. (3 pts.) I think some people who don't like country music is because they think that all country music has bad messages in the songs and only talk about girl and trucks and beer. In reality, that is somewhat true but that doesn't mean that all country songs are about that stuff. Some of them are really good and I think that all country songs should be put under the category that they are "bad". Because some country songs can really teach people some great things that no other song can. I think that the "good" country songs should be more thought of and more popular than the other country songs because these songs are the ones that matter. Maybe I can write to some of my favorite radio stations (102.1 or 102.9) and ask that they play more songs with better meaning behind them even if they are a little older because radio stations only play what is popular and the good country songs are never really popular (which isn't good) and then they get over looked and then they get old. If these radio stations would play "good" music, then more and more people will hear it and like it and they will start to listen to that kind of country rather than the trashy country that is usually popular.