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Class: 8SOJ **Date:** 9/28/15

Saint of the Day: St. Wenceslaus
(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.

-I chose game Call of Duty on the Xbox 360.

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.”

Call of Duty is one of the top leading videogames in the world, and is currently producing more versoins year by year.

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.

I would consider my example 10% good, 90% bad.

CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION

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

What are its main messages? (3 pts.)

The main messages are try to use weapons to endlessly kill enemies without a second thought. It usually revolves around unprovoked war, or being at war just to kill, not for any cause. It tells you you did a good job depending on how many enemies you killed, and rewards you for killing other humans.

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

Jesus would not like this game, because war is already bad enough, but to create a GAME based on war, based on killing other people, is just not a great thing. It also doesn't show the hardships, struggles, and aspects of war that make it so brutal. It sugarcoats the idea of war, and gives people a message that it is a fun good thing.

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

This can have a bad effect on someone by giving the idea that killing and violence is not all that bad, and that taking a life is not as bad as most know it is. It makes people angrier and more prone to acts of violence than the average person.

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 used to be addicted to the game, but after coming to realization of what the content actually consisted of in a more in-depth look, I understood that this was slowly turning me bad. I have decided to put down the game indefinitely, and have not played since April, 2014. I have noticed a change in how I behave towards others now and I will try to shy away from other games like Call of Duty in the future.

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.)

I was about my brother's age when I got into Call of Duty, 11-12, so I took all the games off of the shelf and hid them, so my brother would not fall into the same trap I did.

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.)

Based on my examination, I now don't bring up the topic of CoD in public, and tell people it is a bad game when they mention it in conversation. I also will not play the game at friends houses, nor will I if they come to mine, and will no longer be buying games of the CoD franchise.