



November 4, 2020

Dear President \_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of Pro-Family Women, an organization that promotes the values of faithful Catholic women, I am writing to urge your school to block access to pornography on your school's Wi-Fi network. If your school is already doing so, we commend you for it and would appreciate receiving a letter or e-mail advising us of the method you are using to do so.

While some assert that viewing pornography is harmless, and even healthy, there is nothing "healthy" about material that portrays sexual violence and aggression against women as being enjoyable to women. An analysis of 50 best-selling popular videos (based on sales and rentals) revealed physical violence in 88% of the scenes, and verbal aggression in 49 percent, with 87% of these acts of aggression directed towards women. The response of the women in these videos towards the aggressive act was overwhelmingly (95%) either an expression of pleasure or one of neutrality (per the analysis published in 2010 in the *Violence Against Women* journal).

There is nothing "harmless" about the link between consuming pornographic material and committing acts of verbal and physical sexual aggression. This link has been well-documented by a 2015 meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries, which found a tie between frequent viewing of pornography and increased acts of sexual aggression. This link is not limited to the United States but can be found in international studies as well.

In addition to these health and safety concerns, the moral implications are obvious. Any college or university that calls itself "Catholic" should not facilitate a near occasion of sin by its students through unfettered access to pornography on the school's Wi-Fi network. At an age when young men and women are forming important relationships, a Catholic college should be encouraging healthy and moral relationships. As Pope Saint John Paul II said: "Pornography is immoral and ultimately anti-social precisely because it is opposed to the truth about the human person, made in the image and likeness of God . . ."

A Catholic college's assertion that they have a policy against pornography consumption, or that students should "self-censor," is not sufficient in light of the proven harms associated with pornography. See National Center on Sexual Exploitation, *The Public Health Harms of Pornography*, 2018 at [https://endsexualexploitation.org/wp-content/uploads/NCOSE\\_SymposiumBriefingBooklet\\_1-28-2.pdf](https://endsexualexploitation.org/wp-content/uploads/NCOSE_SymposiumBriefingBooklet_1-28-2.pdf)

Your school environment should foster an appreciation of a woman's intellectual, emotional, and spiritual attributes, rather than female degradation, especially in today's #MeToo environment. Please join the Catholic colleges that block porn on campus today. We realize that due to the coronavirus pandemic, colleges are making frequent adjustments regarding the presence of students on campus, but this is of such paramount importance that it should be addressed at this time. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns. We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest opportunity. We can be reached at [contact@profamilywomen.org](mailto:contact@profamilywomen.org).

Sincerely,

Susan T. Muskett, President