

Student to Youth Minister (Adult) Communication Policy

June 10, 2019

To: Families of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

From: Nic Gutierrez, Director of Youth Ministry

Subject: This policy is to ensure the safety of all our students, staff, and adult ministers regarding communication with electronic platforms (i.e. social media, cell phone, etc.)

Summary:

(Where applicable) **At least one parent must be included in any electronic conversation between a student and the Director of Youth Ministry or any adult involved in ministry with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.**

Discussion:

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is dedicated to providing a safe environment for all students and strives to extend this protection to any electronic form of communication. We love the ability to *provide counsel, explain event details, and setup meetings* through our digital platforms but understand the necessity to do this appropriately. Therefore, no student should ever be in communication with the Director of Youth Ministry or any adult minister without a parent or adult knowing the conversation is happening. Please see the ways of parent/adult inclusion below.

Inclusion examples:

- **Cell Phone/Email:**

At least one parent contact number/email address must be included in a text/email to the Director of Youth Ministry or any adult involved in ministry. Parent(s) must be aware anytime a student is contacting the Director of Youth Ministry or any adult minister.

- **Social Media:**

At this time, Instagram is our preferred social platform to display the happenings of the youth ministry and engage students. Because of this, we naturally incur private messages (DM's) pertaining to the above italicized communication criteria.

We understand not every parent employs the use of social media. Therefore, we have multiple adults monitoring our social media accounts. Meaning, anything sent to our Instagram account can instantly be seen by multiple adults (moderators), not just one adult (administrator) of the account. If a parent does have an Instagram account, we recommend requiring the child to include them in the direct message (DM) to the account Admin/Mods.