

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## How Does Pornography Harm Us?

### Know This...

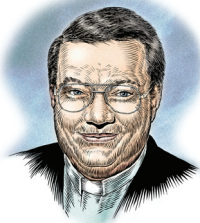
An addiction is a physical and/or psychological dependence on something. For years many addictions have been discussed, openly; including alcohol, drug, smoking, and gambling. Sexual addictions, including the attraction to pornography are just now starting to be discussed, openly. Pornography is perhaps the fastest growing addiction and the least expensive to feed. Lewd and immoral material is available everywhere. It's a lie to say pornography is a victimless crime. Pornography is exceptionally harmful to men and women, young and old. It denies our God-given dignity, stunts our moral and emotional growth, immerses us in self-gratification, violates marital fidelity, and destroys families.



**John:** Pornography is on television and radio, in movies and video games, on billboards and placards, in books, magazine, and newspapers.

**James:** Indecent photos and videos of adults and children, taken with cell phone cameras, travel at "warp" speed around the world.

**John:** Pornography destroys lives. Yet, we live in a world so intoxicated with the pursuit of pleasure that it ignores all the warning signs of its own moral decay.

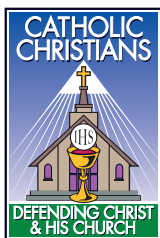


**James:** Human sexuality is a beautiful and precious gift from God. Pornography degrades this gift and turns us into sexual objects and addicts. Pornography has a devastating effect on personal relationships, family stability, and spiritual life.

**John:** The Church is the voice of Christ. She must lead the war against pornography. She must elevate awareness, offer help, provide hope, and bring healing.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: [www.catholicchristians.com](http://www.catholicchristians.com) for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.



Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Mt 5:27-28 Jesus said, "If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna." Mk 9:47

The Catechism (2354) says pornography is a grave offense against chastity. "Do not say that you have chaste minds if you have unchaste eyes, because an unchaste eye is the messenger of an unchaste heart." St. Augustine



### PAPA SAYS

"Often times if we brace ourselves with strong energy against the incitements of evil habits, we turn even those very evil habits to the account of virtue." Pope St. Gregory the Great "Impurity is the greatest corruption of the person... Give mystery back to love and do so through purity." Pope John Paul II



### BE ATTITUDES

"Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit." St. Lucy "Reject the deception of those who appease themselves with the pathetic cry of 'Freedom! Freedom!' Their cry often masks a tragic enslavement, because choices that prefer error do not liberate. Christ alone sets us free." St. Josemaria Escriva



"Let not the lustful cravings of the flesh master me. Surrender me not to shameless desires." Sir 23:6 Paul said, "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ... Avoid immorality... the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Cor 6:15a, 18-20 Paul said, "This is the will of God... that you abstain from immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor; not in the passion of lust like heathens who do not know God!" 1 Thess 4:3-5

Lord God, King of Heaven and earth, praise be to You, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I know Your grace gives me the power to practice temperance, to resist all immoral desires of the flesh, and to live the virtue of chastity. Send Your Spirit upon me and fill me with Your grace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

