



Bulletin Board Ideas for the 12 Gardens of Stewardship

Gardens of Technology and the Mind

Grades 5 - 7 and Technology/Computer Class

Our minds are extraordinary gifts that allow us to have fellowship with our Creator, who has called us to have a spirit of 'love, power and a sound mind.' We should always be learning, questioning, and thirsting for knowledge, in both our spiritual and temporal worlds. Technology can be very useful toward this purpose, when used responsibly. How can we stay mindful of using technology ethically?

Project

- Title bulletin board; 'Using Technology to Benefit Ourselves and Others.'
- Draw simple graphics of a large computer screen and keyboard keys. (Or assign creative seventh graders to the task.)
- Post on keyboard keys some of the ethical uses for computers and the internet, such as learning, creating and giving.
- Subtitle the computer screen; 'Websites that Don't Waste Your Time.' List some of your favorite educational and social justice sites. Your students may have valuable input!

Suggested Quotes

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge." Prov 18:15

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." Phil 4:8





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Gardens of Technology and the Mind

Grades 5 - 7

It can be argued that technology has changed the world more so during this current generation than at any other time in history. The ways technology can be used to alleviate human suffering are nearly unlimited. As Catholics, we are obligated to be aware of inequities, including technological inequities, among all people and to answer God's call to help alleviate the injustice and suffering caused by these inequities. God's gift of technology helps us to answer this call in increasingly effective ways.

Project

This example is in conjunction with the 'Learning to Give' lesson plan titled 'What's the Difference?', which has been adapted to include a focus on Catholic social justice and in which students compare and contrast lifestyles, governments and economies around the world with that of the United States, as well as examine ways human rights groups and the use of technologies can help people in need.

- Title bulletin board; 'Make a Difference!' The illustrated, adapted quote reflects our obligation to use technology in accordance with Catholic teaching on social justice.
- Referring to the 'Learning to Give' lesson plan, 'What's the Difference?', have students research countries outside the United States, either of their choosing or assigned by the teacher and either individually or in small groups.
- Have students use a computer with an internet and printer connection to print photos representing living conditions in their assigned countries.
- Have students type and print brief summaries of what they discovered during the lesson, such as the income levels, educational opportunities, and government structures associated with their countries, along with particular challenges faced by people. Have students include ways that human rights organizations can use or are using technology to help people in these countries.
- Have students mount their photos and summary text on colored paper titled with their countries.

Suggested Quotes

"We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life."

From the CRS Mission Statement

"Technology is a gift of God. After the gift of life it is perhaps the greatest of God's gifts. It is the mother of civilizations, of arts and of sciences." *Freeman Dyson*

"From now on we live in a world where man has walked on the Moon. It's not a miracle; we just decided to go." *Tom Hanks ('Apollo 13')*

