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The Commencement of our Violent Brothers

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The Commencement of our Violent Brothers

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"It is taught in Sunday school, catechism, and Catholic and Christian schools across the country and the world that violence is not an option – the golden rule is always to be used. We are to be peaceful beings in regards to physical and emotional health in order to attain full happiness. But what we are not told are things about subjects that are not often breached, like alcohol, sex and drug abuse. We look at these subjects and wonder how our children, friends and siblings could ever fall prey to such destructive habits. We never believe that someone close to us could become someone overcome by addiction, anger and power or something as simple as inadequacy. But what happens when it does happen? Are we a cause – a catalyst? Do we sit back and watch what happens? Do we even notice?"



Juliet Janicik

***** The Commencement of our Violent Brothers**

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The evidence of these violent acts starts from the commencement of these people's lives. Though their parents may sit unknowing of how their actions affect their loved ones, they separate the boys from girls with blue and pink and sports and dance. They encourage boys to roughhouse and scold girls for getting dirt on their fingernails. These common stereotypes lead to the "boys will be boys" write off and an overwhelming pressure on women to be perfect. How do parents acquire these stereotypes and why do we buy into them? Yes, boys will most certainly always be boys in a most literal sense of the phrase, but we cannot just use that simple fact of biology to let them get away with behaviors that could destroy their outlook of the world forever.

These behaviors are something worth looking at, however. Can we say that a simple wrestling match on the playground or a school fight in grade school won't mean anything in the long run. It will if we do not do anything about it. Sure there are plenty of kids who have gotten in their fair share of tussles and have come to grow into perfectly healthy adults. However, there are those who have not received the proper education in how to handle themselves in tricky situations. These young men have found themselves in trouble with violence, sex, and substance abuse. However, it may not be fair to say that it is their entire fault that they have engaged in these actions. Their parents, teachers, and peers have played a large part in the development of their emotions and decision-making habits.

The influence of peers and media has played a large part in these decisions for these teen, but the influence or lack of influence of a father figure may have also controlled their life. Without a strong adult presence that can lead them toward the right decision, teens are often led to make decisions on their own and can often make the wrong choices. They copy what little they might see of an adult figurehead and that may not be the best influence. They may see women as property, as objects – something to discard and demean. The presence of women in the house is to cook, clean, and to wait hand and foot on the man. However, that attitude leads the individual down a path of destruction, anger and excessive control. There will be no successful relationship that comes from a one-sided, violent relationship as such, especially when all the child has known is those same principles.

Kids and teens often look to adults to solve their problems, but their solutions may not be taken to heart because of rebellion, lack of attention, or peer pressure. Sometimes our children are more influenced by people their own age than by their parents, and even more so by the media they are exposed to on a daily basis. Television, internet, magazines and video games are a threat to influencing good behavior in teens and young adults. As much as we'd like to prevent it and teach our children the "right" way to approach things, these media outlets give teens the opportunity to access photographs, videos, and

explicit content that leave an especially negative connotation and perception on how to treat women.

The age limit listed poses no threat to viewers and sharers of the content alike, but acts as a challenge to those who wish to expand their horizon and enter to the wonder that will lead them down the path of emptiness.

Because we choose not to educate our children properly about the dangers of pornography, of having a sexual relationship early in life, or of not dealing with our problems in a healthy manner, we run the risk of our children developing habits that are hard to break.

These habits are hurtful both to the women that must endure pain, scars, and humiliation, but also to the man who must struggle with insecurity and anger. The life they lead is one that can be prevented, but not one that can often be foreseen. Though we think that our lives and actions are not truly affecting our children, each word – each movement – can influence their next decision. One word of advice, one word of encouragement could prevent one less broken woman and one less labeled, predatory man.

