

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

ABUSE POLICIES

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING • PO BOX 3310 • MISSION, BC • V2V 4J5 • PHONE: 604-826-8715 • FAX: 604-826-8725

Anti-Cowardice (Bullying) Policy

Preamble

Everyone has a tendency to be a bully – if we can get away with it. Our tendency comes from the God given desire to be in contact/communion with everyone. The sad fact of our fallen nature often results in an **unsatisfied**, or a **dissatisfied** tendency: the former is an absence of satisfaction the latter has the added dimension of a selfish negative judgement added to it.

To bully is a transitive verb! We are only able to bully someone who allows himself to be bullied. To allow oneself to be bullied necessitates a lack of knowledge and a lack of love for the bully – both of which are perceived by the potential bully.

Christian Courage is the virtue by which one stands and acts reasonably, truthfully and lovingly before and against what is difficult. “The courageous man” says Aristotle “delights in facing what is terrible.” This does not mean that the courageous man does not feel fear – rather he fears in the right way at the right time. His fear, in Christ, encourages him to act courageously. Since he has trained himself to meet difficulties he delights in facing them.

As Christians we are called by God to know and love everyone as Jesus Himself. To fail in this Christian vocation is to be a coward. I cannot love whom I do not know. If I do not love my fellow seminarian then I do not know him. To know any person, in Jesus, is to love that person.

Policy guidelines

When one person acts aggressively towards another that aggression must be met with reason, hope, knowledge and love.

Bullying aggression can take many forms: physical, verbal, emotional. When I act towards another in such a way as to expect that he will fearfully submit to my action(s) I am acting as a bully.

Remember, *to bully* is a transitive verb! Every bully is a coward and a bully can only bully a coward. The bully is a coward because he does/cannot stand up to his own negative impulses and feelings. He has a right to be stood up to. He has a right to be treated with truth and with love (Eph 4:15).

Every boy in the seminary must know himself to be an integral part of the whole community. As he is being integrated he must be made aware of and connected with senior students, prefects and superiors to whom he can ask assistance and discuss difficulties.

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Within the first three weeks of each school year every student is assigned to a hockey team. The captains and members of the team should always make themselves available and accessible to help, especially new students, to get to know each other.

“Am I my brother’s keeper?” yes I am. Everyone in the seminary is responsible for everyone else. We are here because we have been called together to live and grow together. Each of us has a right and a duty to act and be reacted to truthfully and lovingly.

When an act of bullying is reported to a teacher he has the responsibility to inform the Rector.

If students are aware of such activity they should first pray and discuss among themselves the most loving and truthful way of responding. If they discern that they require assistance or advice they should consult the senior students, their spiritual director, a teacher or the Rector.

Bullying is everyone’s business in the sense that we are all interdependent. The goal for the community is that we all grow and learn to be courageous men in Jesus Christ – who is Truth and is Love.

We are all called to stand as Jesus hung on the Cross in truth and in love. If by His grace we walk towards this goal, which He has prepared for us, He will not only guide us on the way but He will be the Way: *Behold I was dead and now I live and I hold of keys of Death and underworld in my Hand!* (cf. Rev. 1:18)

