

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

SEMINARY RULES

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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY

Correcting students in truth and in love. Eph. 4:15

Preamble

Correction is the act by which we aid someone's growth in truth and in love.

St. John Bosco's advice to his fellow religious should be the foundation of correctional attitudes and decisions:

My sons, in my long experience very often I had to be convinced of this great truth. It is easier to become angry than to restrain oneself, and to threaten a boy than to persuade him. Yes, indeed, it is more fitting to be persistent in punishing our own impatience and pride than to correct the boys. We must be firm but kind, and be patient with them.

I give you as a model the charity of Paul which he showed to his new converts. They often reduced him to tears and entreaties when he found them lacking docility and even opposing his loving efforts.

See that no one finds you motivated by impetuosity or willfulness. It is difficult to keep calm when administering punishment, but this must be done if we are to keep ourselves from showing off our authority or spilling out our anger.

Let us regard those boys over whom we have authority as our own sons. Let us place ourselves in their service. Let us be ashamed to assume an attitude of superiority. Let us not rule over them except for the purpose of serving them better.

This was the method that Jesus used with the apostles. He put up with their ignorance and roughness and even their infidelity. He treated sinners with a kindness and affection that caused some to be shocked, others to be scandalized, and still others to hope for God's mercy. And so he bade us to be gentle and humble of heart.

They are our sons, and so in correcting their mistakes we must lay aside all anger and restrain it so that it is extinguished entirely.

There must be no hostility in our minds, no contempt in our eyes, no insult on our lips. We must use mercy for the present and have hope for the future, as is fitting for true fathers who are eager for real correction and improvement.

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In serious matters it is better to beg God humbly than to send forth a flood of words that will only offend the listeners and have no effect on those who are guilty. (Epistolario, Torino 1959, 4, 201-203 as quoted in *The Office of Readings* for the feast of St. John Bosco, January 31)

Policy

Each year the Abbot of the monastery appoints a discipline committee for the high school seminary. Members of this committee should meet once a month, records are to be kept of these meetings.

Some practical principles for teachers and superiors:

- 1) Never correct when you or the boy is in a state of emotion
- 2) Never correct a whole class on account of one student's behaviour
- 3) Make sure that when the boy leaves after the correction he leaves happy. ¹
- 4) Never assume you know what the student is thinking or what his motivations were before asking him. Never begin an inquiry with an accusation.

Each student is to be treated reasonably and charitably. The person initiating the correction must be concerned with the good of the student to be corrected. He should be able to communicate his concern for student's welfare to the student through the way he discusses, how he administers the correction and what he prescribes and expects from the student by way of the correction.

When matters occur that could require the possible expulsion of a student, the parents of the student and the discipline committee must be consulted before any final judgment is made.

Parental appeals should be directed to the Rector of the high school seminary or the Abbot of the monastery.



¹ John A Morrison, *The Educational Philosophy of St. John Bosco*, (Don Bosco, New York, 1979) p. 98-99.