



## Newsletter – December 2019

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### Technology Advancement With A Price!

In the late 70's pagers were used by professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers and those who were financially able to afford the pagers. In Singapore land lines were only used when it was necessary to deliver urgent messages or for emergency matters. There were only few families who could afford land line phones.

In the early 80's ordinary pagers were common and by middle of 80's pagers with message application became common in Singapore. Upon receiving a notification, the pagers beep and one had to return to his/her respective office to follow up. Communication could be by land line or via public coin phone.

In the 90's onwards mobile phones and computers were easily available and flooded the local market. The radio, gramophone, Walkman, mini-compact disc, laser disc player, black and white TV, telex machines, telegram message machines, fax machines, pagers and the rabbit type heavy duty mobile phones were not common anymore. Since then various types of mobile phones, and colour televisions became common items of the population.

At the same time many of us at that time were not "attached" to those gadgets. Neither did we keep the mobile phone in our pockets. Currently many of us are very much "attached" to the computer, mobile phone, tablets or watching movies or listening to music with the latest wireless speakers.

Now while travelling on the bus, train or when we moving from one point to another point many of us are either listening to music or watching a movie, chatting with a friend or sending text messages. Others are on call or anticipating overseas video conference etc. Sometimes many are on direct chat or gaming with others not known to them. It is very risky for young ones to be in contact with the faceless chat groups. After sometime anyone can be hooked or addicted to the mobile phone resulting in being in isolation or failing to communicate with the family members and the community around them

Interestingly all gadgets and mobile phones are tools for us to be used for a good purpose with social responsibilities towards the family and communities. For

example the Guided Positioning System (GPS) used when we are driving on a long distance journey enables us to reach the right destination. We use our mobile phones to search for various topics of interest which concerns us whether for our studies or leisure.

Through the various mobile applications we can communicate globally with our friends and relations instead of snail mails. The positive aspect is the direct connection immediately wherever they are. Medical surgeries can be performed with guided medical equipment electronically through key holes with minimum invasion and the patients can recover faster as compared to invasive open surgeries. Commercial organizations, government agencies and the judiciary in countries such as Singapore use the modern technology such as mobile applications and video-conferencing features extensively.

**Case one:** “Two of my sons when serving national service became addicted to mobile gaming”. As a result their parents had to set conditions for them to use their phones until 9pm daily. The same discipline also applies to both him and his wife. Also during all family meals their mobile phones had be switched off.

**Case two:** After mass, we noticed that our neighbour’s daughter had a new mobile phone of the older version type like Nokia type. Her touch phone had been confiscated by her father as his daughter refused to share the contents as to whom she was chatting with on line. Next, she was too “attached” to the mobile phone for long hours. Therefore, her social skill to communicate with other family members was reduced and she kept to herself in isolation and unable to communicate normally.

### **Seeing Our Situation**

- a. Is the above situation happening within our community?  
If yes, please share your own experience that you had encountered each day?
- b. Why is the above happening in my family and in our community?
- c. What is really positive and negative about mobile application?

### **Judge/ Christian Reflection:**

- a. If Christ was present among us what would be his message for us in relation to the above situation?
- b. What does the Bible, the Social Teachings of the Church, the Encyclicals, and The Catechism of the Catholic Church tell us about the above situation?

### **Act: Our Action/Responses:**

What can we do individually and collectively to reduce the negative effects of technology?

Announcement

The CFSM Exco and invited members will have their Annual Leaders Retreat for 2020 on 11 January 2020 and 12 January 2020. Please pray for them to have a fruitful retreat.

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**The Christian Family & Social Movement wishes all its members a holy and blessed Christmas.**