

Modesty in Dress / Dress Code

“Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden.” (CCC 2521)

Because the body was created in the image and likeness of God it would be logical that the body be treated with the utmost respect. It is with our bodies that we pray, that we relate to others, that we communicate with God and that we express who we are. It is with this belief that the Catholic Church roots all of its teachings on the dignity of the human person. This includes protecting human life from conception to natural death, marriage and family, chastity and modesty.

“Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love... Modesty is decency. It inspires ones choice of clothing.” (CCC 2522)

In a culture that promotes using others for your own gain and pleasure we must remain strong in our call to bear witness to the sacredness of the human body. As St. Paul reminds us: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing unto God, this is your spiritual act of worship. And do not be conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1-2)*

“Modesty inspires a way of life which makes it possible to resist the allurements of fashion and the pressures of prevailing ideologies” (CCC 2523)

As a way of being in union with this belief, WorkCamp would like to ensure that you are treated with the utmost respect and ask you to treat yourself and others with that same respect. Therefore, we require these guidelines for dress and behavior:

- Please abstain from using derogatory language about the body.
- Underwear is meant to be kept under your clothes and not to be seen.
- The three B's must remain covered at all times (breast, belly, bottom).
- No inappropriate body language.
- Shorts must be no more than 3" above the knee.
- Full clothing must be worn all times.
- Tank tops and skin-tight clothing are not allowed at WorkCamp.

In past years, we have struggled with shorts being too short and rolled up sleeves. Though it may be a trend, it brings the wrong focus to the body. Alternate clothing **will** be provided for those who are not properly attired.

We know that this might be a challenge for many of your teens. We are not trying to take away their freedom or the beauty of their bodies, but it is our desire that all young people can come to a deeper understanding of the respect that their body deserves. Our hope is that we can all be focused on the work of serving others & building true and sincere friendships with each other and with the Lord at WorkCamp.

Finally, when visiting a residence, WorkCamp participants should refrain from wearing WorkCamp T-shirts or other garments that identify them as belonging to a service organization. It may be embarrassing for our residents if neighbors and other members of the community see that they are in need of such assistance.

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17)