

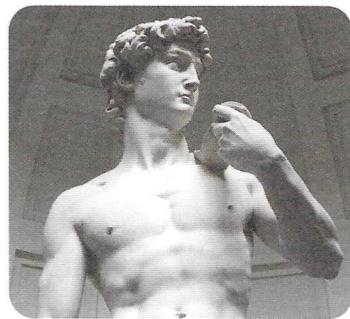
Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The "respectability" of the location or publisher doesn't matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo's intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn't arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at uscbb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: "Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord's forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord's mercy and his power to free and heal you." ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30

THURSDAY

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12-22
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

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