

This upcoming summer season

The ways of these difficult and morally relaxed times during which we live have it that people often dress more lightly during the summer seasons than other times of the year. The problem, however, is that lighter clothing sometimes is worn intentionally with the aim to reveal the many parts of the body that should be kept covered. This is consciously or sometimes unconsciously intended to, or can lead to, stimulate and awaken the sensual desires in others, a style of behavior against which people were cautioned in the Holy Gospels: “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Matthew 18:6).

This article is not intended to be a study about the human body and its sanctity. Neither is it an exhaustive study about clothing and its importance, nor does it seek to explain the expression of the inner part of man. Rather, it is intended as words and pastoral advice to the children of God who live in this human body.

Certainly modern fashion designers are not concerned with or focused on the salvation of mankind. Their energy is completely centered on being innovative in their styles in such a way that their pocketbooks stay full and their production flourishes. This is not to mention the evil temptations that inspire some of the designs and fashions- there are fashions that are purposely designed to promote certain inappropriate manners or behaviors, in addition to their persistent aim to destroy people’s ability to detect or distinguish beauty. Since not all clothing fashions can be suited to match all people, why would we want to wear any unfit fashion which would make us the subject of mockery or make us look ugly?

From a Christian perspective, the human body is perceived to be a holy creation and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Can the human body be sanctified by wearing clothing that is sexually suggestive, eye-catching, and seductive, or through virtues and a life of purity instead?

Many of our young boys and girls wish to and are permitted to wear certain fashions without first examining whether these fashions are appropriate or in harmony with their ethics, moral principles, and, most importantly, with their Christian faith. Why are they presenting themselves as if they have no morals, when this is absolutely not true?

It is not only theologically but also scientifically known that there is a tight bond between the body and the soul. Whatever is desired by the soul is expressed through the body. Thus, revealing styles of clothing that intentionally show certain parts of the body (directly or indirectly) convey the motive or thought of sexual enticement that is occurring internally.

Is there not any other way for people to prove themselves in life and to attract the admiration of others, except through using their bodies? Not only is this improper, but there are other, better ways to achieve this goal.

It is expected of the Christian faithful to pay special attention to the purity of the body as well as the soul. So why would the Christian faithful choose a fashion that is inconsistent with that goal? And how can the faithful consent to desecrate others and transgress against their purity, even if this happens only through the sense of sight? Most cultures and societies commonly hold certain standards and make distinctions between different occasions or celebrations and have appropriate clothing for each

particular event. But sadly, in our society low-cut, tight, and revealing clothing that are only appropriate for wild merrymaking parties have become the common attire, even during the divine church services such as holy matrimony. The clothing of casual outdoor activities such as shopping has also now become common church clothing. Jeans might be appropriate during regular work time, but not during our intimate time with God. In this society, the distinction between fashions that are appropriate for Christ and those that are not appropriate is either lost or forgotten.

Those who consider themselves to be “westernized” strive to make their children stand out in public by putting their entire emphasis on their physical appearance, attempting to make them look like a “Barbie” doll. This method results in an upbringing where the children grow up to be superficial and hollow inside, because they believe that the only way for them to stand out and to be unique is through their bodies and the clothing they wear. But what about their intellectual capacities, their proper manners, their gracefulness, and their Christian faith? Don’t the absence of aware and illumined parents and the lack of their proper guidance constitute main factors that lead to their children turning out to be shallow and lacking substance?

Despite all the modern technology of communications that have turned the world into a “global village,” some are still under the impression that whatever is “western” is Christian. Thus, they accept it easily, not comprehending a basic concept that there is no such thing as a Christian society, unless it is inspired in all of the aspects of its life by Christ. Is there an end to this ignorance? The summer season is drawing near; make a conscious effort to go through it living in accordance to what is appropriate to Christ.