The Computer and On-line Lure
Lesson #21

This is another issue which is very important today; children really do need to be protected while using the internet. There is no way for them to know with whom they are talking on-line. On-line safeguards are vital; restricting access is very important.

Do the children realize the internet has a patron saint? The Scripture references were chosen to show the children that the care of God is reflected in their parents' care for them.

The prayer given provides another opportunity for discussion about their use of the internet.

This lesson will need to be handled differently with the different ages of the children. With the younger ones, there may not be need for much discussion. The older ones could be invited to discussion about just how they handle themselves on-line. Do they give out personal information? What do they do if someone contacts them? What do they do if they find themselves on a site which they know they should not be visiting?

This lesson could easily be combined with the one on pornography with the older children.

A Prayer before logging onto the internet:

Almighty and eternal God, who created us in your image and bade us to seek after all that is good, true and beautiful, especially in the divine person of your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you that through the intercession of St. Isidore, bishop and doctor, during our journeys through the internet we will direct our hands and eyes only to that which is pleasing to you and treat with charity and patience all those souls whom we encounter. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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Lesson Plan:

Prayer	Loving and gracious God, Help us to remember to always think first and stay safe. *Your love is before our eyes;* This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Scripture	Luke 2:41-50 (Jesus, missing at 12—parents' anxiety) Luke 10:1-12 (disciples sent out 2 by 2—don't go alone) Tobit 5:3-8 (Tobiah sent with the archangel Raphael)
Saint or Hero	Archangel Raphael St. Isidore of Seville—patron saint of the internet

Additional Catechist Resources:

Symbol	Online safeguards Parental controls
Music	*Shepherd Me O God* (Marty Haugen, GIA)
Liturgy or Rites	Dismissal: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*
Prayers	See above
Church Teachings	**CCC 2214:** *The respect of children…is nourished by the natural affection born of the bond uniting them. It is required by God's commandment.* **2215:** *…(it) derives from gratitude….* **2217:** *As long as a child lives at home…, the child should obey his parents in all … they ask when it is for his good….`* **Social Doctrine of the Church: Ch. 8, §IV, 415:** *The media must be used to build up & sustain the human community…. The essential question is…does it make people more spiritually mature…more aware of the dignity of their humanity…responsible or open to others….* **Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, USCCB**