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**Sunday 25th November 2018**

**Assembly/Presentation Plan**

“You are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant you to live it.” (Ephesians 2:10)

This 6-10 minute assembly/presentation could be used on its own or alongside the #JustOneFilter discussion and prayer sessions.

**Preparation**

You will need to create some selfies using different filters on an app (such as Facebook or Snapchat) and put them into the presentation on slides 7-12. If you feel uncomfortable doing this then try to get some other teachers/helpers/volunteers to create some pictures for you. These pictures should be amusing to the young people.

**Plan**

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| *Slide 1* | *Read the quote and ask the question:* “What does it mean for something to be a work of art, a masterpiece?” |
| *Slides 2-6* | *For each one ask the young people whether they think it’s a work of art? What makes it a work of art?*For something to be called a work of art or a masterpiece, it needs to have value. Where does that value come from? Each piece has a story, often a history. In some ways it has beauty or can be challenging. They make us think and wonder. A work of art is the product of the artist’s creativity and even if no one else ‘gets’ it or likes it, the value comes from the fact that the artist created it and loves it.God calls us his work of art – we each have a story, we each have our own beauty. We can be challenging but we can also make others think and wonder at our creation and being. We may feel like no one ‘gets’ us or likes us but our value comes from the fact that God created us and loves us. |
|  | But so often we feel like we need to measure our lives in a certain way or to present our lives to others through a filter, just as if we were posting a selfie to Snapchat, Facebook or Instagram. Some filters are designed to enhance the way we look and make us look more beautiful. |
| *Slide 7* | Others are designed to make us look terrible. |
| *Slide 8,10,11* | Some are just a bit of fun, but if we go a bit over the top |
| *Slide 12* | we are masked and the true person can hardly be seen anymore. |

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| *Slide 13* | “In everyday life there are filters that affect how people see us. For instance, we might measure our lives through the filter of popularity: how good or big the parties we go to are, how many boyfriends or girlfriends we’ve had, how many likes our pictures get. Or maybe it’s through the filter of achievement: doing well at school or being picked for the football team.We might present our lives to others through the filter of money and wealth – having all the right stuff, the right trainers, listening to the right music, being seen in the right places – and presenting an image of being strong, independent and happy when we feel that life is falling apart around us.We can end up acting like a different person in different situations, always trying to fit in and never quite belonging anywhere. We can lose sight of our true selves in the fake filters through which we want others to see us.This Sunday, 25th November, is National Youth Sunday, a day when the Catholic Church seeks to recognise and celebrate the value of young people, not because of anything that you do but simply because of who you are. The Church wants you to recognise your own value and help you to see how faith in God can inform the way you live your life.There is ONE filter that helps us stay true to ourselves, that helps us all to measure our lives in the right ways, and present ourselves to others as we are. This is the filter of God’s Love. When we look at our lives through this filter we see ourselves and others as God does, as truly loved, valued, and significant, no matter what is going on in our lives. We are works of art, masterpieces, lovingly created by a God who knows us and wants to be close to us. God wants us to have meaning and purpose in our lives, and the filter of His love can help us to find it. It can help us to see how we are making a difference to others, and to the world around us. |
| *Slide 14* | Jesus came to bring us life to the full. Jesus died so that our mistakes would be forgiven and we would know how much we are loved by God. Through this love and forgiveness we are able to live the best life we can and be the truest version of ourselves.Our culture will tell you that identity is found in the clothes you wear, the music you listen to, the team you support or the stuff you own. God says: “You are my beloved child and your identity is rooted in my eternal and unchanging love for you that existed even before the world was created.”Our society, which is fixated on achievement and results, might tell you you’re not enough. God says: “You *are* enough. Even if you were the only person in history I would still have sent Jesus to die for you so that you can live with just one filter, the filter of my love for you.” There are many voices who want to tell you that you have to look a certain way to belong. God says: “I created you. You are my work of art and you belong to me.” |
| *Slide 15* | I created you. You are my work of art and you belong to me. |
| *Slide 16* | Could you live with just one filter? |