



Girls And Boys Town Students Offer Advice To President Bush

By Father Val J. Peter, JCD, STD (NAPSA)—Adults often overlook the honest and simple advice of children. Sometimes, simple answers are best at solving complex problems.

At Girls and Boys Town, we teach our kids they have a voice—in their homes and in their government. Our girls and boys have great insight into some critical issues facing this country.



Father Val Peter

I want to share with you some concerns and words of wisdom given to President Bush by our girls and boys. I ask him and you to please, take their advice to heart.

One thing I would like to share with you is child neglect. I have been in that situation where I was neglected. It is a very sad feeling. I know you may find it hard to deal with, but I believe there is a possible way.

—Desiree, 13

I want to give you some ideas for teachers. They teach students and practically give all their time for barely any pay. My mom is a teacher and that is why I am so concerned. She teaches three grades at once. She barely gets paid anything.

—Jeremy, 13

My name is Katryna and I am 9 years old, but am about to turn 10. Girls and Boys Town is a good place to put kids because sometimes they might need help like if they are abused, feeling hurt, homeless and needing help. Please help these children so they can find people to love them.

—Sincerely, Katryna, 9

P.S.—Have a nice time being President.

I would like to make a suggestion about the juvenile court system. I think teens age 12 to 15 should not have to go to any serious jail places unless they did something huge like kill someone. The only reason kids act out the way they do is so people will start caring about us. The only way many of us know how to get attention is by doing something real bad.

—Sincerely, Barbara, 13

Dear Mr. President: How do you sleep at night knowing America's future is in your hands? If you need to talk to someone or just need someone to listen, call or write. I'll be there.

—Michael, 13

One of the biggest problems in America is gang wars, Mr. President. I am mad that my friends get beat up or even shot. I have come up with an idea. Let's build more parks and more playgrounds. Best wishes to you.

—Sincerely, Sullivan, 12

My name is Jasmine and I am 13 years old. I live with five other girls and my Family-Teachers who really care about us and our safety. I have been here two years. I have been thinking about the hunger of some people, especially in the Sudan. Could you help them with food? God made everybody, including them, for a reason. Congratulations.

—Jasmine, 13

May your ears and minds be open to sound advice from the future leaders of our country.

Father Val Peter is executive director of Girls and Boys Town, the original Father Flanagan's Boys Home, in the Village of Boys Town, Neb. and in California, New York, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Nevada, Rhode Island, Iowa, Philadelphia, Georgia and Washington, D.C.