

DIocese of St. Petersburg

Office of the Bishop

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September 12, 2018

Dear Brothers,

Based on the advice and recommendation of the Presbyteral Council, we have established March 3, 2019 – which is the 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time and the Sunday before Ash Wednesday – as Safe-Haven Sunday in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Safe-Haven Sunday is a weekend set aside to address directly in a pastorally appropriate way the pervasive problem and the many harms of pornography. Within the context of the Mass, we can provide teaching and resources that will support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a Safe-Haven. Our specific theme for March 3rd is ***Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children***. Safe-Haven Sunday is inspired by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' November 2015 formal statement, ***Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography***. It seeks to replicate the enormously successful Safe-Haven Sunday initiative held in the Archdiocese of New Orleans on February 18, 2018, and we will be joined by other dioceses around the country in offering this initiative in the coming year.

Implementing Safe-Haven Sunday will be easy for parishes. We will provide step-by-step instructions and all resources needed. For now, all we ask of parishes is to calendar the date and generally familiarize yourself with the concept. As the date approaches and we send instructions and resources, we will ask parishes to commit to participate, and we hope that all parishes will want to do so. In the meantime, we have attached more information about Safe-Haven Sunday in the form of Frequently Asked Questions, including those to contact if you have questions.

Know that you remain in our prayers as you assist your parishioner families to protect and form their children in the ways of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

Attachment: Safe-Haven Sunday Frequently Asked Questions

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY
Sunday, March 3, 2019

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS¹

Q. What is Safe Haven Sunday?

Safe Haven Sunday is a weekend within the liturgical calendar selected by the diocese to directly address the harms of pornography and to provide resources to support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in overcoming pornography and making their homes safe.

Q. Is Safe Haven Sunday an annual initiative?

Safe Haven Sunday is designed as an annual initiative to occur in the life of the diocese on a selected weekend to educate and form individuals, marriages, and families on the harms of pornography. Despite this, we have not committed to Safe Haven Sunday beyond this year. If this year's event is as successful as we hope, we can consider continuing it in future years. If it continues, new implementation materials will be designed every year that will reflect the annual theme to assist diocesan and parish leaders with the promotion and implementation of Safe Haven Sunday.

Q. What is this year's theme for Safe Haven Sunday?

This year's theme is *Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children*.

Q. Is Safe Haven Sunday implemented at the diocesan or parish level?

Both. This is a weekend that is initiated by the diocese, and the Bishop requests that the parishes implement this weekend. The diocese plays a leading role in the weekend, primarily by way of communicating necessary actions to implement the weekend and, at the same time, spearheading communication with the parishes and the public. The parish role is to provide communications to parishioners and implement Safe Haven Sunday. As an optional but not required component, the parishes can also provide to parishioners this year's educational resource booklet, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*.

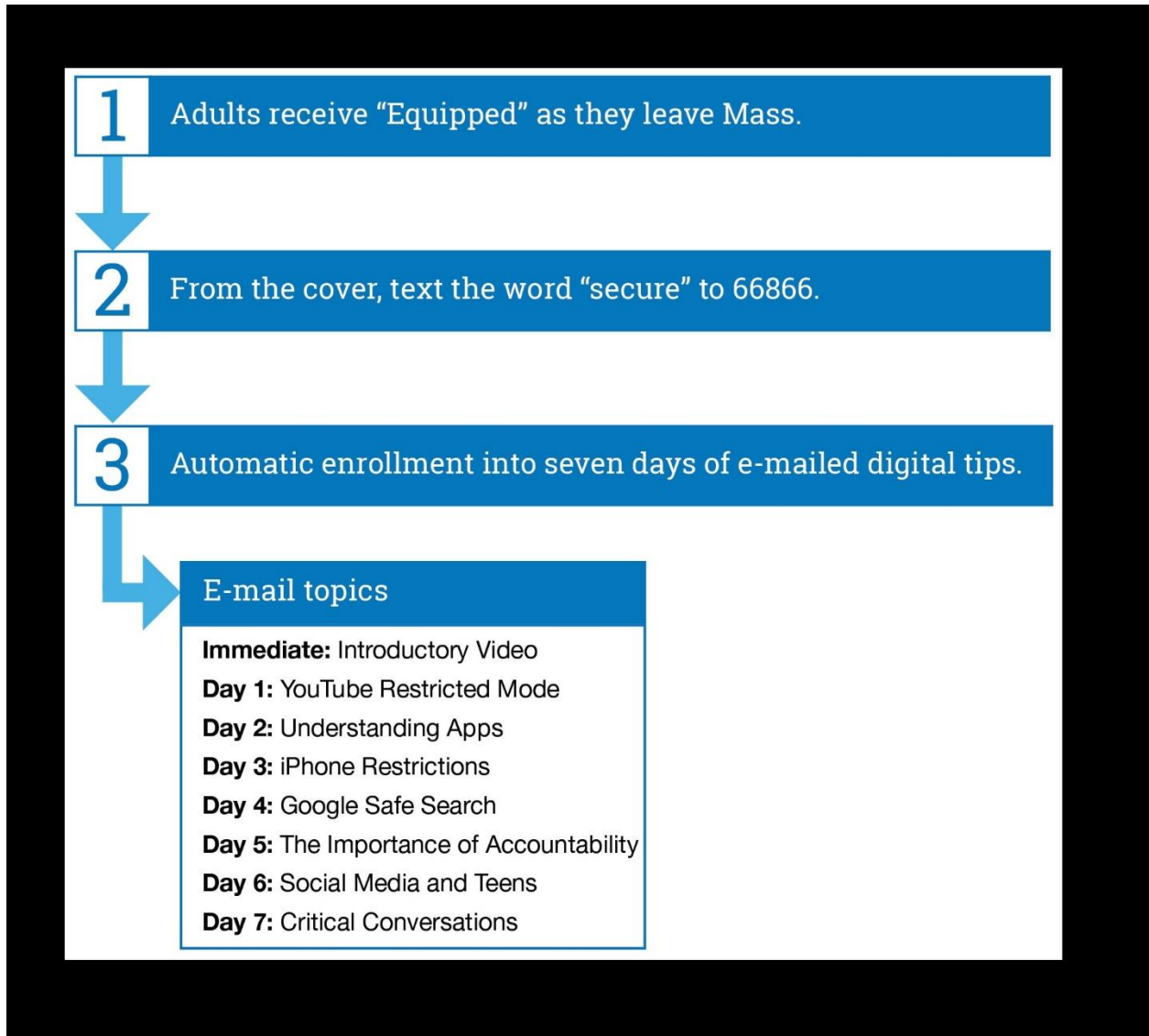
Q. What role does the Pastor/parish priest have in the implementation of Safe Haven Sunday?

This effort is designed to be led primarily by the Pastor. He will be provided all the tools to make Safe Haven Sunday a success, including homily helps, general intercessions, prayer card, bulletin blurbs and insert, as well as the opportunity to purchase educational resources to

¹ Rev. 9/4/18.

distribute to parishioners, which includes this year's booklet, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*, which is available in both English and Spanish. There is also a free seven-day text-to-opt-in program, available in English and Spanish, that provides practical tips that adults can take to create safer digital environments. Throughout the book and resources, readers are encouraged to sign up for the seven-day text-to-opt-in program by texting "secure" to 66866. Safe Haven Sunday is designed to be successful whether the Pastor/parish priest chooses to preach on pornography or chooses not to preach on the subject, relying instead on the resources and materials to deal with the subject pastorally.

7 DAY EMAIL CHART



Q. Who sets the date for Safe Haven Sunday?

The Bishop sets the date for diocesan implementation. All parishes in the diocese are asked to commit to celebrate Safe Haven Sunday on the same day. Our Safe Haven Sunday is set for March 3, 2019, which is the 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time and the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

Q. What are the costs to a parish with Safe Haven Sunday?

The only cost to the parish is the purchasing of the book, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*, which is \$2 per book, and the printing locally of the official Safe Haven Sunday prayer card. Both are highly recommended but are optional. We recommend that a copy of the book and prayer card be given to each family leaving Mass on Safe Haven Sunday. If a parish is unable or unwilling to incur this expense, Safe Haven Sunday can be successfully implemented without these two resources. The book is personalized for our diocese with a Forward by Bishop Parkes and our diocesan logo. Parishes place their book orders by using the Equipped Book Diocesan Order Form, which will be provided at the appropriate time in the step-by-step instructions. The diocese collects the order forms and checks and then distributes the books to parishes when they are received.

Q. Who is involved with the diocese in preparing Safe Haven Sunday resources and materials?

Covenant Eyes has prepared the Safe Haven Sunday concept, including the resources and materials. Covenant Eyes is a company committed to creating faith-based resources that foster the virtue of chastity and the tools to overcome pornography use and addiction. Its flagship service is Internet Accountability and Filtering. Safe Haven Sunday is one of the many resources Covenant Eyes has developed to assist U. S. dioceses and parishes to implement the USCCB's November 2015 formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, one step at a time.

Q. Are we the first diocese to implement Safe Haven Sunday?

No. The Archdiocese of New Orleans held the first Safe Haven Sunday on February 18, 2018, the 1st Sunday of Lent. The New Orleans experience was enormously successful, and that archdiocese has committed to continuing the program for the coming year. We have been in contact with the archdiocese and have confirmed its success story. In addition, it appears about 12 other dioceses, including our own, will be participating in Safe Haven Sunday in the coming year and even more the year after.

Q. How can I get my other questions answered as they arise?

We have assembled a broadly based and experienced working group in our diocese to implement Safe Haven Sunday. It is being chaired by Fr. Tim Corcoran, with principal staff

support being provided by Brian Lemoi. The members of that working group and their contact information follow. Please contact Fr. Tim, Brian, or any of the other members of the working group as your questions arise. You can also learn more at the Covenant Eyes site, <https://learn.covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday/>.

DOSP SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY WORKING GROUP

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<i>Chair</i>		
Corcoran, Fr. Tim	St. Mary Catholic Church 15520 North Boulevard Tampa, FL 33613 (o) (813) 961-1061 frtim@stmarytampa.org	Pastor
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<i>Our Covenant Eyes Contact</i>		
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