

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG  
**SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY IMPLEMENTATION FACT SHEET<sup>1</sup>**

*EQUIPPING THE FAMILY, HAVING CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS*

Safe Haven Sunday is celebrating its second year of raising awareness throughout dioceses and parishes in the United States regarding the negative impacts of pornography on individuals, marriages, families, and society.

Safe Haven Sunday is a weekend set aside by dioceses and parishes to address directly the harms of pornography in an appropriate way. Within the context of the Mass, dioceses and parishes are able to provide teaching and resources that will support individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven.

It is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2015 formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*. In that statement, the bishops explain that "[t]he use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family's life and across generations."

Implementing Safe Haven Sunday is accomplished by following the included step-by-step instructions.

**IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

As set by Bishop Parkes upon the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council, our second Safe Haven Sunday is February 23, 2020, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Safe Haven Sunday, successfully presented for the first time last year in 39 of our parishes, is our effort to address in a pastorally appropriate way the pervasive problem and the many harms of pornography. Through it, we provide teaching and resources that support individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven. Following up last year's theme, *Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children*, which was about protecting children from exposure to pornography, this year's theme is *Equipping the Family, Having Critical Conversations*, which is about helping families after children are exposed. This year, 27 dioceses will be participating in this initiative, up from 12 last year.

Safe Haven Sunday is designed to be led primarily by the parish priest. Like last year, all of the resources parishes will need to publicize and implement Safe Haven Sunday will be on the diocesan Website at [www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn](http://www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn) . Just click on the *Safe Haven Sunday*

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<sup>1</sup> Dated December 5, 2019.

*Resources* button there. These resources will include bulletin announcements, inserts, and blurbs; sample letters and messages; intercessions; and homily helps. Priests can preach on the subject or simply highlight the availability of the materials and resources. Bishop Parkes' Friday e-mail blast to priests will be used to notify parishes when all the resources are on the Website.

Participation in Safe Haven Sunday costs nothing. Parishioners can sign up for a free week of daily e-mails and videos – terrific educational resources. There are also other excellent free resources available on our Website, [www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn](http://www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn) .

There is a book we highly recommend parishes purchase for their parishioners – one per family – but parishes can successfully participate without the book. If a parish chooses to purchase the book, it's \$2 per copy. This year's book is *Confident: Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure*. The book can be previewed on the Website by clicking on the *Safe Haven Sunday Resources* button described above. There are also prayer cards parishes may choose to purchase at nominal cost. To have the book and cards by Safe Haven Sunday, **the deadline to order is January 22, 2020**. Again, Bishop Parkes' Friday e-mail blast to priests will be used to notify parishes when the order form is available on the Website. Ordering instructions and details are on the order form.

Questions? Contact Fr. Tim Corcoran, [ftim@stmarytampa.org](mailto:ftim@stmarytampa.org) , or Brian Lemoi, [bal@dosp.org](mailto:bal@dosp.org) .