



## DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

February 14, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ:

The consequences of pornography on the internet generation are being discussed with more frequency and at every level, including in the Catholic Church. For this reason, I have asked all pastors and parishes to continue to do their part to be proactive regarding this serious issue of pornography by directly addressing it with the individuals and families entrusted to their care. One of the key ways I am asking that they do this is by celebrating our third Safe Haven Sunday this weekend with this year's theme, "Equipping the Family: Safety Through Connection." Once again, this will be an opportunity to equip marriages and families with the tools they need to restore in their homes a safe haven.

Many parishes will be offering this year's book, *Connected: How Strong Family Relationships Lead to Internet-Safe Kids*, for parishioners to pick up after all Masses this weekend. When a parent discovers his or her child or teenager has been looking at pornography, it can be alarming, hurtful, even frightening. In the confusion of the moment, it is important for parents to understand that these are not uncharted waters. This book provides a full, step-by-step guide for Catholic parents. This book is free. Just go to [www.covenanteyes.com/e-books/](http://www.covenanteyes.com/e-books/) and scroll down to Family Protection to find it.

We also have other wonderful resources to help parents, individuals, and families combatting this issue. Just visit [www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn/](http://www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn/) to find them.

Let me also invite parishioners to join a free, seven-day text-to-opt-in email campaign that provides short, practical videos to help parents protect their children from online dangers. Just text SECURE to 66866.

This weekend let us take this opportunity to collectively empower marriages and families by bringing to light the dangers of pornography.

Asking the Lord's abundant blessings upon you and your loved ones, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Gregory Parkes  
Bishop of St. Petersburg