



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

November 19, 2018

Re: Safe-Haven Sunday, Implementation Follow-Up – Action Required by January 9, 2019

Dear Brothers,

Pornography is detrimental to both the physical and spiritual life of each individual and the greater community. As I previously informed you in my [September 12th letter](#), I am asking all parishes to celebrate Safe-Haven Sunday on March 3, 2019. This day will be an opportunity to bring to light the issue of pornography, as well as equip marriages and families with the tools they need to restore their homes as Safe-Havens.

A highly recommended component of Safe-Haven Sunday is offering the book, [Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture](#), for parishioners to pick up after all Masses. The book, available for \$2 each in both English and Spanish, aids parents in fostering fruitful conversation in their home. If you are unable to incur the expense of purchasing this book for your parishioners, you can still successfully celebrate Safe-Haven Sunday in your parish. All the other needed resources are free to you, including a seven-day text opt-in e-mail campaign that provides short, practical videos that will help parents protect their children from online dangers. We also offer you at minimal cost Safe-Haven Sunday [prayer cards](#).

This informational [video](#) further explains the purpose of Safe-Haven Sunday. In addition, these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) explain this initiative.

Implementing Safe-Haven Sunday in your parish is easy. Our partners at Covenant Eyes have provided resources for the implementation of Safe-Haven Sunday, many of which we have customized for our diocese. These resources include a [parish implementation plan](#) checklist and timetable, [bulletin blubs](#), [bulletin inserts](#), a [pastor's letter](#) to parishioners, [general intercessions](#), [Bishop's letter](#) that can be read on Safe-Haven Sunday, [Bishop's video](#), bullet point [homily helps](#), and a [sample homily](#). You can choose to preach on the subject, or you can choose instead simply to read my letter, or both. You have complete flexibility to use the resources as you see fit.

No later than Wednesday, January 9, 2019, we ask you to inform us whether your parish will be celebrating Safe-Haven Sunday. By that time, we also need your order for the books and prayer cards, if you wish to purchase them. Please use this [Parish Participation Notification and Order Form](#) for notifying us of your participation decision and to place any order for books and prayer cards.

If you have any questions about Safe-Haven Sunday or the implementation process, please contact Fr. Tim Corcoran or Brian Lemoi. Their contact information is in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

We are very concerned for marriages and families in the Diocese of St. Petersburg with the many threats they face in today's culture. Together, we can assist them in dealing with this evil.

Thank you for your ministry and wishing you God's blessing, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

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Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg