



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 2, 2021

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write to introduce a new resource that I am sure will be a welcome gift to your parish family, especially parents with younger children.

In the fall of 2015, along with my brother bishops, I endorsed the issuance of "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography." This document was the bishops' attempt to offer support to pastors, families, and individuals. To encourage the implementation of this document, many dioceses across the United States have partnered with Covenant Eyes (an online accountability service) to provide concrete and tangible help to parents and caregivers as they navigate questions of parenting in a digital age.

In consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the Regional Vicars, the Archdiocese of Baltimore will hold "Safe Haven Sunday" on the weekend of March 13-14, 2021, which coincides with the Fourth Sunday of Lent, a time when we – like the Catechumens – reflect on our shortcomings and utter dependence on the Lord. While I know Lent can be a very busy time for our parish communities, I encourage you to identify a couple ways to recognize this Sunday and share it with your parish community. The attached resource provides a number of suggestions.

Sadly, through isolation and loneliness, this pandemic has only increased pornography use and addiction. As one pastor on the Presbyteral Council noted, "If you are in the confessional on Saturdays, you know this is a problem." We *must* offer something for individuals and families who are struggling. Pornography is not only vicious and destructive, but it is also a great obstacle to evangelization and threatens future generations of disciples.

Please join me in this important initiative. Be assured of my prayers and I humbly request yours.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

attachment

Archdiocese of Baltimore Safe Haven Sunday
Resources for Parish/Pastorate Implementation
March 13-14, 2021

Begin by reviewing the easy-to-use Safe Haven Sunday Implementation Guide: <https://learn.covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday> and identify a few ways from the list below to promote Safe Haven Sunday at your parish/pastorate.

Preach and/or write a letter to parishioners about online pornography, providing both the Church's teaching, encouragement, and concrete resources.

Make parishioners aware of Clean Heart Online: <https://cleanheart.online/archdiocese-baltimore-0> and suggest that parents and caregivers sign up for a short, free course on making their home safer from pornography or talking to children about pornography: <https://cleanheart.online/courses>.

Invite parents and caregivers to sign-up for the seven-day text-to-opt-in program by texting SECURE to 66866.

Purchase a promotion kit that includes yard signs and banners with easy text-to-join information and resources for parents. (Available on the Covenant Eyes website for \$150 plus shipping and handling: <https://store.covenanteyes.com/products/church-promotion-kit>.)

Share information about Safe Haven Sunday in a Flocknote, bulletin, and on social media. Sample materials can be found here: <https://www.covenanteyes.com/resources/parish-resources-year-1/>.

Order Confessional Cards for STRIVE, a FREE 21-day program for men to break free from pornography: <https://www.strive21.com>.

For further resources or questions, contact Edward Herrera at edward.herrera@archbalt.org.