

D I O C E S E
of NEW ULM

Office of the Bishop

January 18, 2019

Dear Reverend Fathers:

It comes as no surprise that pornography is one of the leading causes of addictions, abuse, adultery, divorce, and even human trafficking. Pornography creates unsafe environments for children and confuses others about attitudes towards sex and marriage. It is a moral issue.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, states, "We must see our role in protecting children from pornography as our sacred duty, as well as an aspect of our work to create safe environments in accord with our ongoing implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Together we can address this issue by teaching those who have been entrusted to our care about pornography's effects and to share resources with them.

On **March 2-3, 2019**, we will celebrate Safe Haven Sunday. This awareness day will give us an opportunity to address the harmfulness of pornography in marriages, families, and culture as a whole, while providing helpful resources to both individuals and families. Our partners at Covenant Eyes will provide us with the necessary resources.

This informational video further explains the purpose of Safe Haven Sunday: **www.covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-introduction**

There is a Safe Haven Sunday Parish Implementation Guide available to assist you. This guide is attached.

As part of our Safe Haven Sunday initiative, I urge you to distribute an educational resource to families to use to make their homes safe havens. *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* is a resource produced by Covenant Eyes that is available for purchase. Information for an e-book version of *Equipped*, for you to review is attached, along with ordering information.

We are very concerned for marriages and families in the New Ulm Diocese 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 blessings, I am,

In Christ,



The Most Reverence John M. LeVoir
Bishop of New Ulm

