

2018-2019

# Safe Haven Sunday

Equipping the Family - Safeguarding Children

Parish Implementation Guide

## Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children

**Safe Haven Sunday** is celebrating its first 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 directly address 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 and protect individuals, marriages and families in making all homes a safe haven.

It is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, where they explain, "The 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 step-by-step instructions.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. What is Safe Haven Sunday?**

**A.** It is a weekend within the liturgical calendar selected by the diocese or parish to directly address the harms of pornography and to provide resources to support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in overcoming pornography and making their homes safe.

## **Q. Why is Covenant Eyes involved with Safe Haven Sunday?**

**A.** Covenant Eyes is committed to creating faith-based resources that foster the virtue of chastity and the tools to overcome pornography use and addiction (their flagship service is Internet Accountability and Filtering). Safe Haven Sunday is one of the many resources Covenant Eyes has developed to assist U.S. dioceses and parishes implement the USCCB's formal statement *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, one step at a time.

## **Q. Is Safe Haven Sunday an annual initiative?**

**A.** Yes. It is an annual initiative that is to occur in the life of a diocese and/or parish on a selected weekend to educate and form individuals, marriages, and families on the harms of pornography. New implementation materials will be designed every year that will reflect the annual theme to assist diocesan and parish leaders with the promotion and implementation of Safe Haven Sunday.

## **Q. What is the 2018 theme for Safe Haven Sunday?**

**A.** This year's theme is Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children.

## **Q. Is Safe Haven Sunday implemented at the diocesan or parish level?**

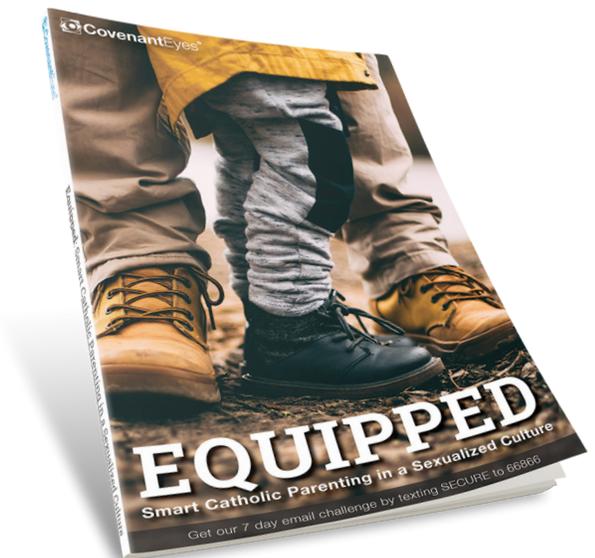
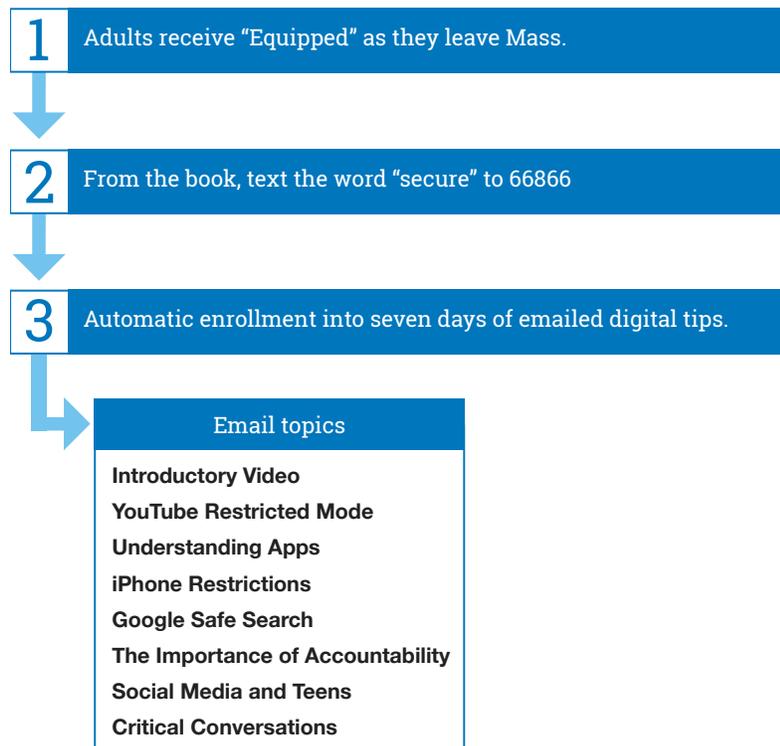
**A.** Both. This is a weekend that can be initiated by a diocese and/or parish. If the diocesan bishop requests that parishes implement this weekend, the diocese plays a leading role in the weekend, primarily by way of communicating necessary actions to implement the weekend and at the same time spearheading communication with the

parishes and the public. The parish role is to provide communications to parishioners and implement Safe Haven Sunday, and (optional) provide this year's educational resource, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*.

### Q. What role does the parish priest have in the implementation of Safe Haven Sunday?

A. This effort is designed to be led primarily by the parish priest. He will be provided all the tools to make Safe Haven Sunday a success, including homily helps, general intercessions, prayer card, bulletin blurbs and insert, as well as the opportunity to purchase educational resources to distribute to parishioners, which includes the Covenant Eyes' book, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*, which is available in both English and Spanish, and a free seven day text-to-opt-in program, also available in English and Spanish, provides practical tips that adults can take to create safer digital environments. **Throughout the book, readers are encouraged to sign-up for the seven day text-to-opt-in program by texting SECURE to 66866.**

#### 7 Day Email Chart:



Also available in Spanish!

**Q. Who sets the date for Safe Haven Sunday?**

**A.** The diocese sets the date for their diocesan implementation. All parishes in the diocese celebrate Safe Haven Sunday on the same day.

**Q. What costs are involved with Safe Haven Sunday?**

**A.** The only cost involved is the purchasing of the book Equipped (\$2/per book) and the printing of the official Safe Haven Sunday prayer card locally. Parishes place the order by using the Equipped Book Diocesan Order Form provided in the Implementation Guide. The diocese collects the order forms and checks, and then provides one check to Covenant Eyes for the books.

**Q. How can I get my other questions answered as they arise?**

**A.** Please contact a member of the Covenant Eyes Catholic Services Team shown on the next page.

# Your Covenant Eyes Safe Haven Sunday Implementation Contacts



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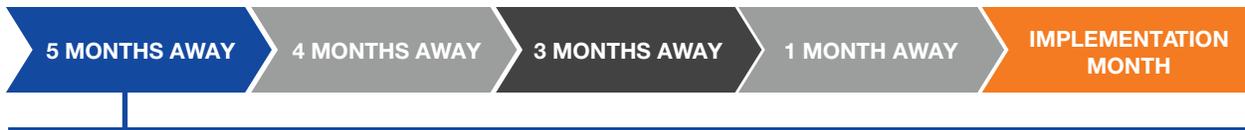
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The following section provides suggested steps that could be taken at the parish level during the five months leading up to Safe Haven Sunday weekend.

# Parish Implementation Plan

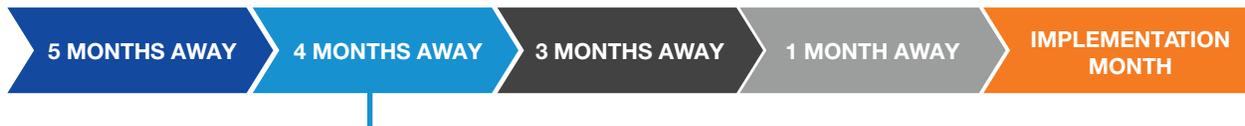
*If Safe Haven Sunday is being implemented at the diocesan level, these steps should be performed in conjunction with diocesan efforts.*



## Five Months Until Implementation

- Meeting with parish priest and parish staff members to discuss the Safe Haven Sunday concept, seek approval, and decide on implementation date. If done in conjunction with the diocese, the implementation date will be designated by the diocese.
- Meeting with Pastoral Council to discuss Safe Haven Sunday in the parish, including budget for purchasing *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* and Safe Haven Sunday Prayer Cards.

# Parish Implementation Plan



## Four Months Until Implementation

- Parish priest informs parish of the initiative through its normal communication channels.
- Determine roles and responsibilities of parish staff members and volunteer assistants.
  - Who will help with the printing and/or mailing of the introduction letter of Safe Haven Sunday from the priest to parish households?
  - Who will order copies of the book *Equipped* and the Prayer Cards to distribute to all parishioners on Safe Haven Sunday?
  - Who will make sure the bulletin blurbs and the bulletin insert are included in the parish bulletin on the designated dates?
  - Who will contact the local Catholic radio station?
  - Who will contact the diocesan newspaper?
  - Who will post information about Safe Haven Sunday on the parish webpage and/or social media?
  - Who will print the General Intercessions and make them available at the ambo for Safe Haven Sunday?
  - Who will place the Prayer Cards in the pews prior to the Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses?
  - Who will help pass out the book *Equipped* after the closing song of the Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses? etc.

# Parish Implementation Plan



## Three Months Until Implementation

- Parish representative places order for copies of *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* and Safe Haven Sunday Prayer Cards.
- Parish representative contacts local Catholic radio station about promoting Safe Haven Sunday, including an interview with parish priest and/or parish representative on the parish initiative.
- Parish representative contacts diocesan newspaper about attending Safe Haven Sunday to write a story on the effort.

# Parish Implementation Plan



## One Month Until Implementation

- Copies of *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* and Safe Haven Sunday Prayer Cards arrive at the parish.
- Safe Haven Sunday promoted on local Catholic radio station.
- Parish priest and/or parish representative(s) interviewed about Safe Haven Sunday on local Catholic radio station.

# Parish Implementation Plan



## Month of Implementation

- **4 weeks out** - Parish priest writes about Safe Haven Sunday in his bulletin or newsletter column.
- **4 weeks out** - Safe Haven Sunday promoted on parish social media.
- **1 week out** - First bulletin blurb: Weekend prior to Safe Haven Sunday.
- **Implementation Weekend - Safe Haven Sunday**
  - Second bulletin blurb: Safe Haven Sunday (may also be used as Pulpit Announcement) and one-page bulletin Insert
  - Homily
  - General intercessions
  - Prayer Card (may be prayed after the Homily, General Intercessions or the closing song)
  - *Equipped* book distributed after closing song
- **1 week after** - Third and final bulletin blurb thanking parishioners for participating in Safe Haven Sunday.
- **1 week after** - Safe Haven Sunday / Thank You posted on parish social media.
- **1 week after** - Diocesan newspaper article on the parish effort.

The following section provides suggested resources that could be used in order to implement Safe Haven Sunday.

# Implementation Resources

**Bulletin Blurb**

**Bulletin Insert**

**General Intercessions**

**Homily Helps**

**Homily Sample**

**Homily Video**

**Letter from Parish Priests to Parishioners**

[\*\*Click here to access the resources listed above\*\*](#)