Letter from Parish Priest

[Insert date]

[Insert feast day]

Dear friends,

There have been many occasions throughout the course of this year where so many of you have communicated your prayers and support for me as your pastor. I am constantly humbled by your expressions of love and gratitude. Thank you! It is now my turn to once again offer my support to you and your families.

As your pastor, I am available to guide you in the life of faith. I am available to celebrate the Sacraments, rejoice with you in happy times, and cry with you during the most difficult of times. I am also available to help you with anything that is keeping you or your families away from growing in the spiritual life and developing a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church. One issue that is becoming more and more difficult for individuals, marriages, children, and families as a whole is the struggle with pornography. Regrettably, pornography can impact both children and adults spiritually, emotionally, physically and relationally.

As you work hard to protect your families, I want to equip you with the appropriate tools to form, protect and guide your families on this specific issue. Thus, on [insert date] we will be celebrating the second annual Safe Haven Sunday with the theme "Equipping the Family: Having Critical Conversations." As you may recall, Safe Haven Sunday finds its inspiration in the U.S. Bishops document Create in Me a Clean Heart, wherein they state, "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."

When a parent discovers his or her child or teenager has been looking at pornography, it can be alarming, hurtful, and even frightening. In the confusion of

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the moment, it is important for parents to understand that these are not uncharted waters. In the back of the church, I will provide you with a full, step-by-step guide for Catholic parents on how to navigate this difficult situation.

Once again, this awareness weekend is meant to draw our attention as a parish community to the seriousness of the issues of pornography and to recommit ourselves to take steps to ensure our homes are safe havens for all. I encourage you to begin learning now by texting SECURE to 66866 to receive seven days of free emailed digital tips.

I look forward to celebrating our second annual Safe Haven Sunday with you next weekend!

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, intercessors of the home, and Saint Michael, I am,

[Insert signature]

[Insert name]