



# The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260

(301) 853-4500 | [adw.org](http://adw.org)

Dear Monsignor/Father:

Christ's Peace to you! As you know, one of the most sacred teachings of the Church is that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore every person possesses an inherent dignity. Pornography does not uphold the human dignity of God's creation, and sadly the proliferation of pornography is a real pastoral challenge for many. 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 many about attitudes towards sex and marriage.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, states that we must protect our children from pornography and create safe environments for them. 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 **October 28 & 29, 2023** we encourage you to 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. We are partnering with Covenant Eyes, an organization that provides free resources to help you implement Safe Haven Sunday. Below you will find a link to some on-line resources.

<https://www.covenanteyes.com/resources/parish-resources-year-1/>

In the **Bulletin Inserts**, there is a **QR code** in which parents can download a free eBook *"Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture"* which can equip them with ways to understand the dignity of the human person and sexuality, the effects of pornography, and to talk about safety with their children. The eBook explains the effects of pornography on the brain, provides ways to help protect children from pornography, and how to effectively communicate with children.

You will also find in the resources link **petitions, a sample homily, prayer card, and social media kit.**

Thank you for taking this opportunity to help form parishioners about the effects of pornography on families and marriages. If you have any questions, please contact me in the Office of Family Life at [daniels@adw.org](mailto:daniels@adw.org) or 301-853-4546. May you be guided by the Holy Spirit as you continue to accompany your parish community in loving and understanding the dignity of every human person.

Peace in Christ,

Sally Daniel  
Director, Office of Family Life