

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Safe Haven Sunday, Bereavement Support Group and Parish Lenten Mission

Safe Haven Sunday. This Sunday, March 10, is the 2nd Annual Archdiocesan “Safe Haven Sunday,” a day to highlight and the danger of Internet pornography to children. To address the danger, St. Francis Parish has purchased 100 books entitled, “Confident: Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure” which will be available free of charge after weekend masses to families with children.

Shockingly, the average age of a child’s exposure to pornography is 10 years old and usually occurs while the child is doing homework online. The “Confident” book teaches parents how to help children process exposure to porn and not fall into compulsive, addictive behavior. The Archdiocese, in collaboration with the anti-porn fighting company, Covenant Eyes, also has developed a website (cleanheartsonline.com) to help parents make their home a safe haven from the relentless assault by the porn industry.

Please spread the word about the Church’s anti-porn efforts (in print and online) and pray for God’s help to break the stranglehold of pornography in our land.

Bereavement Support Group. One of the requests that Fr. Thien and I heard during our “Meet and Greet” home visits was a desire for a support group for persons, young and old, who have experienced the death of spouses, children or other loved ones. I am happy to advise that we will begin a Parish Bereavement Support Group on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 pm at St. Joseph Hall. Paige Rahn, a parishioner, Eucharistic Minister, St. Francis school mom, hospice worker and certified thanatologist, will facilitate the support group for our parish. The plan is to meet on the 3rd Thursday evening of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm (adjusting for holidays). If you or someone you know is struggling to cope with the death of a loved one, check out this group and experience the healing that God brings through a community of faith.

Parish Lenten Mission. Another thing Fr. Thien and I heard during our “Meet and Greet” visits was a desire for a Lenten Mission. We will have a Parish Lenten Mission on Monday-Wednesday, March 25-27, at 7 pm in Church on the theme, “Healing Family Relationships and Hurts.” Seriously, is there anyone out there who can’t benefit from this topic? I have yet to meet a person without some tension, conflict or difficulty in their family. Fr. Joe Krafft, a Professor at Notre Dame Seminary, will share stories, wisdom and practical tips to help heal family hurts, as well as strategies to deal with ongoing relationship challenges. Babysitting will be provided free of charge during the Mission. There will be a Penance Service with several confessors during the session on Tuesday, March 26. Mark your calendars and come to our Parish Lenten Mission.

God bless,
Fr. Joe