

Safe Environment of the Archdiocese

Newsletter

December, 2018

Dear Facilitators,

Recently I became aware of a book called Necessary Changes. The author, Dr. Henry Cloud, points out that change is a necessary part of life. When we recognize that fact, only then can we open ourselves to what God has in store for us next. In my own experience, the premise of this book is absolutely true. Therefore, I have come to the decision that, after six years in the Safe Environment Office, God now has something else in mind for me! I am not sure what, but want to be open to the surprises that he may have in store.



I will not be returning to the Safe Environment Office after the Christmas break. I have spent almost 23 joy filled years of ministry in the Archdiocese—16 as Superintendent and 6 as Safe Environment Coordinator. My math is not deficient— I took 6 months off after being Superintendent!

I am proud of the progress the Safe Environment Office has made over the past years. However, as the events of the past months illustrate, we can never become complacent in our vigilance to keep our youth and vulnerable adults safe. With that in mind, I am happy to be leaving the office in the very capable hands of Maggie Beckham. She has been a positive addition to the office and I know will continue to work hard at improving the work of the office.

As we thank God for our many blessings, know that I am so grateful to each of you for the good work that you do in Safe Environment. Your commitment to keeping children safe is deeply appreciated. Be assured of my prayers for you and all the people of this Archdiocese.

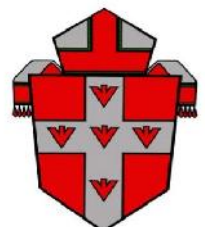
Sister Kay



1) Have you put **April 4, 2019** on your calendar? If not, please do so now. That is the date of our annual Facilitator Workshop at the Pastoral Center. Do invite all staff members and your pastor.

2) If it is December, January is not far behind! Please make arrangements to **publish the bulletin announcement** in your parish/school during the month of January. At a minimum, that should be your third time doing this publication.

3) Have you taught the **Circle of Grace** curriculum yet? We encourage you to do this before Christmas break. Please inform the parents of when it will be taught and give parents the opportunity of viewing the lesson plans for each grade level. If parents want to “opt out” of the lesson, make sure you have them sign the appropriate form found in your Manual, Section IV, page 2



Go Make Disciples

Safe Haven Sunday

As you know, for the past three years, we have been focusing on educating people on the evil effects of pornography. As a result of our last year's April in-service, a task force was formed to work on an initiative that would span all of our ministries in the Archdiocese. Working in cooperation with Covenant Eyes our Archbishop has established what is called "Safe Haven Sunday". In early November, Archbishop Coakley sent a letter to all priest and deacons announcing that **March 30-31, 2019 will be "Safe Haven Sunday" in all of our parishes.**

In his letter Archbishop Coakley says, "Safe Haven Sunday" will be dedicated to addressing, in a pastorally appropriate way, the pervasive problem of pornography. Within the context of the Mass, we can provide teaching and resources to assist individuals, married couples, and families in making their homes into "safe havens" that are free from this evil (pornography). Our specific theme for this year's Safe Haven Sunday will thus be *Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children.*

No doubt, you will be hearing more about this as plans take shape. Your pastor will receive the appropriate information to be shared in all parishes. You will be hearing more from your respective contact person at the Archdiocese (youth office, schools, office, etc.). This is an initiative sponsored by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis.



Kids & Tech Gifts for Christmas

As we approach the Christmas season parents are looking for gifts for their children or teens. Surely, many will receive gifts of some kind of new technology. One of the sites that often refer to is www.protectyoungminds.org. This site has many wonderful articles and resource materials for parents.



A recent article posted is called, "The Best Ever Guide to Safe Tech Christmas Gifts to Kids 2018" by Vauna Davis. It gives many helpful hints to parents before purchasing and before giving the item to a child. The parent resource of this newsletter has another short article from Protect Young Minds. Please make sure that you get this to parents.

As you know, in the past few months we have had the Parent Resource part of this newsletter translated into Spanish. Many have expressed gratitude for this. That service was graciously provided by Angelina Gomez from our Hispanic Ministry office. Unfortunately, Angelina left us last week and has moved out of OK. Therefore, this month's article will not be translated. We regret this and will do our best to find someone else who will translate the newsletter articles.



On Sunday, December 2nd we begin the beautiful liturgical season of Advent. As we make this Advent journey, may we deepen within ourselves the true meaning of the season. Be assured of my prayers for each of you as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior on Christmas.

**Advent
Blessings**





Kudo's Corner

From Maggie Beckham, Associate Coordinator

The reruns are now behind us and the holidays are just around the corner. I wish to extend my deepest **THANK YOU** for ensuring the safety and protection of the children and youth within the parishes and schools. It is a blessing and joy to work with you! Please continue to pray for one another and know of my prayers for all of you!

As we enter the season of advent which focuses on light as opposed to darkness and a time of hope, let us keep in our prayers those who have been affected by the recent developments surrounding Holy Mother Church and ask for strength and courage to face these trying times:

Lord Jesus, you entered a dark and sinful world but through your birth, a great light illuminated and filled your beloved people with hope. In our despair over the scandals within the Church and those who have suffered from them give us the light of your Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with hope and work for a deep renewal and purification of your Church. Give us the courage in our suffering to console and comfort those who have lost hope radiating your light to warm and heal their pain. We ask this through the loving heart of Mary, our Mother, who faithfully said "yes" without hesitation. Like her, may we without hesitation be your light to the ends of the earth. *Amen.*

Scanner recommendation from Maggie Beckham

We are discovering that some facilitators, at times, do not have access to technology for sending documents to the Safe Environment office. If this happens to you there are many **free** apps on the Apple App Store or on Google Play for Android users. One that is especially useful is: **Tiny Scanner – PDF Scanner App**

It's a little scanner app that turns your phone into a portable document scanner. You can scan documents, photos, receipts, reports, etc. Documents can be sent by email, Dropbox, fax from phone, or Wifi directly to your computer.



Is My Child Ready for a Smartphone?

www.protectyoungminds.com



With Christmas approaching, many parents will be buying the children some form of technology. No doubt, a most popular gift will be the child's first smartphone! Before doing that, the title of this article is most important for a parent's reflection

1. **Does your child need a phone to stay connected** with you or for emergency situations? If your child had a true emergency, wouldn't there be an adult or teen nearby with a phone who could help? Would a basic "dumb" phone work just as well?
2. **Does your child already respect your rules** when it comes to time and usage limits for other activities like video games and digital entertainment? If our child doesn't adhere to your current rules, are they really ready for more responsibility?
3. **Have you talked with your child about the dangers of pornography?** The best-selling book *Good Pictures Bad Pictures: Porn-Proofing Today's Young Kids* is an easy way parents can educate kids without scaring them. It will get them excited to install their own internal filter.
4. **Does your child know what types of information are safe to share online?**
5. **Do you have a filtering/accountability system** to protect devices in your home?
6. **Do you have a rule for managing which apps can be downloaded?** Do you understand that most apps lead to the internet and inappropriate content cannot yet be clogged from apps?
7. **Have you considered both the benefits and the drawbacks of social media?** Do you have a plan for mentoring your child in using social media and helping them avoid the dangers?
8. **Does your child understand the long term implications of sexting** or re-sending nude photos?
9. **Have you developed a list of rules** with your kids that covers calling, texting, downloading apps, taking and sharing photos, posting to social media, GPS location settings, and when the phone needs to be OFF?
10. **Does our child get to "own" the device or simply have access to it?** There is a different psychology behind owning a device and having access to one. If it's your device, they get to use it as long as they follow your rules.

Deliberate parenting in the digital age means giving kids responsibility one step at a time, as they are ready and mature enough. It means mentoring your kids with your eyes wide open to the issues and dangers they will face. And it means that even if your efforts are not perfect, they are important for the safety of your kids!

For many other great resources please go to: <http://www.protectyoungminds.org>

This is an invaluable site for protecting children in the digital age

Parent Alert

Many of our households subscribe to Netflix. The following parent alert was sent to me (Sister Kay) from Protect Young Minds, a site to which I subscribe.



What's up Netflix? A cartoon show with a "Mature" rating that is targeting kids ages 11-13 years old?

That's exactly what "**Big Mouth**" is - a show filled with vulgar language, graphic nudity and lots more disturbing, etcetera!

[We thought concerned parents like you deserved a heads up.](#)

Find out more about this troubling show and what you can do about it in our November news update:

Go to: www.protectyoungminds.org

I (Sr. Kay) went into Netflix and the referenced animated show. I watched no more than a minute and was horrified. The thought that so many of our young children are attracted to animated features and could easily get into this show is disturbing. The content of this show is certainly not, in any way, suitable for children of any age. If you subscribe to Netflix there is a petition on the above site that you can sign to have Netflix remove "Big Mouth" from its shows.