



Supported by the Annual Appeal

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The Internet has opened the door to the widespread distribution of new information, business and trade opportunities, spiritual resources and more. The Internet has made a significant and positive difference in our lives. As with every other medium, however, the Internet is often used for less desirable purposes. Pornography is one example.

While no medium is immune from the evil of pornography, its manufacturers have found in the Internet a highly favored and cheap distributor of its materials. Its access is increasing at alarming rates, threatening people of all ages – especially our children. Approximately 20% of all Internet pornography feature children, and the average age of first Internet exposure to pornography is eleven years old. Internet pornography destroys marriages, perpetrates crime and drug use, and undermines the core values of our society.

Through the good efforts of the Archdiocese of Omaha Anti-pornography Task Force, the public is more aware of the proliferation of pornography. The task force has made it a priority to teach people how to prevent pornography from infiltrating their lives and the lives of their children. Last year, Catholic clergy, lay leaders, and educators attended a conference on the problems of pornography. A second, follow-up conference is planned for February 7-8. Other task force initiatives include:

- inviting representatives of other faiths to this year's conference;
- providing support to local groups who want to take the message to parents and the community at large;
- organizing a support group for those addicted to pornography, as well as those related to people with this addiction;
- developing a program aimed at limiting or eliminating access to pornography on the Internet by minors;
- producing useful resources and suggestions to help keep families safe—the accompanying brochure is one good example.

In addition to educational resources and support programs, the Church continues to pray for those directly affected by pornography. Please join me in that prayer, a prayer to rid the Internet, all media, and society from the evil of pornography.

With best wishes and prayers, I am,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha