



Dear Parishioners & All Who Will Read This,

I come before you with a heavy heart, writing about a topic that brings much pain and sadness. Before I address this issue, first and foremost, let us take a moment to remember all those victims who have been subject to abuse by Catholic Clergy. Abuse leaves scars on victims that never quite heal and do incredible damage to a person's psyche but even more so to a person's faith in God.

As to the actual issue of abuse concerning clergy and most especially cardinals and bishops, this kind of behavior is evil, malicious, sick, and disturbing to say the least. Any kind of sexual abuse is a grievous offense against God, as well as the victim. I pray that these clergy will repent of their crimes, do prayer and penance, and be courageous enough to face the consequences whatever they may be -- both consequences and penalties by the Church and the State. We as a Church need to send a loud message once and for all that such horrific acts will not be tolerated in our Church by anyone at any level. The lay faithful deserve priests, bishops, cardinals, and even popes who are virtuous, credible, and lead prayerful lives of holiness. Men who are kind and merciful yet courageous and able to stand up for what is right and just.

In light of the recent stories that have come out in the past weeks and months, namely the damage done by former Cardinal McCarrick, the grand jury report from the state of Pennsylvania, and now the former papal nuncio, Archbishop Vigano, it is my prayerful hope that the Church take swift decisive action and that they do so now! It is my belief that the best solution would be to do a thorough and complete investigation of these crimes and accusations. The best persons to do such an investigation would be a mostly independent lay council of faithful people who desire to expose the darkness into the light and bring healing to both victims and all those affected.

Let us be faithful men and women of prayer during these sad times in our Church. Let us not forget to keep our focus on Jesus Christ which is the main reason why we are all here to begin with. Let us be united in prayer for the victims. Let us also pray for the Church and her leaders, that they may be faithful to the voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd and not be tainted by sin, scandal, and cover-ups. May the Lord renew our Church and purge it from all that seeks to destroy it.

Yours in Christ,

Father Matthew S. P. Guidi - Pastor



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