

ST. VICTORIA PARISH FAMILY

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Like all of the faithful, we are disheartened and angered by recent reports that sexual predations by clergy have been even more deeply rooted and widespread in our beloved Church than previously imagined. The gravity of these offenses is rivaled only by revelations that these scandalous sins were protected by, enabled by, and in some cases even perpetrated by Bishops, Cardinals and others in high positions of Church leadership. This is unacceptable. Clergy sexual abuse inflicts lasting pain and distress upon its victims — in many cases children — and it brings shame upon the Church and the faithful who, by ordaining these offenders, provided them with the access and the authority to perpetrate and perpetuate abuse. Now is the time for justice and a full accounting for these crimes.

Some of the faithful have been so deeply troubled by this scandal that they have abandoned the Church. Others have had their faith itself rocked to the core. Still others have moved in the opposite direction, seeking to rock the Church itself to the core — to tear it down so that it might be rebuilt. And some have silently grieved the loss of innocence, have silently suffered the pain of these wounds, and have silently prayed for answers and consolation amidst the storm. All of these responses are natural and valid responses to this crisis in the Church. Yet each of these responses, if we stick with it for too long, also has the capacity to leave us isolated, lost and defeated. In this we draw inspiration and encouragement from the wisdom of the Word of God (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6-8):

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace.

For now, let us give each other the gift of time. Let us also give each other the gift of ourselves, for imperfect as we all are, ours is the loving face and ours are the ministering hands of Christ. Therefore, we want to provide a time for us to come together as a parish family to speak and to listen, to cry out, to console and to begin anew. Please join us on September 18 at 6:00 p.m. for an opportunity to begin the journey toward healing and renewal together.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Fr. Bob White
Deacon Ray Ortman



... to be the face and hands of Jesus Christ

