



ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH/ST. JOHN MISSION

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Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen Parish/St. John Mission,

I wish to add my comments and concern to the letter sent to us by Archbishop Sartain regarding the recent revelations of credible sexual abuse of minors and the cover up of that abuse that was disclosed about Philadelphia and Cardinal McCarrick.

As a Priest, this information hits me very hard and causes a great deal of emotional angst and anger. As a person who has dedicated his life to the proclamation of the Gospel and building up the community of love and trust around Christ and His church, abuse of any person, (especially the vulnerable and those who should trust the Church and it's ministers the most) is a profound betrayal of all that to which I have committed my life.

I know that the Priests of this Archdiocese, who work day in and day out to be the agents of God's presence by administering the Sacraments, feel this same way. I am also aware that you, who live the faith, and who find Christ in the heart of the Church, feel betrayed by the egregious sin of these ministers who so callously corrupt the image of Christ's face, by victimizing and destroying so many innocent souls and those who further harm the victim's trust in God by not addressing the wrong with swift and sure justice.

I have been on the Archdiocesan Priest Council for close to twenty years and I can assure you that, as the Archbishop has outlined, the safety of children and vulnerable persons is a concern that is foremost in the institutions and the hearts of the leaders of the Archdiocese.

This Parish, as well as all organizations associated with it, have long implemented Safe Environment Protection Training, that I and my staff, as well as all volunteers, are required to take and renew regularly. Part of the training is to be on constant vigil about the way we protect and care for the safety of all people in all aspects of Parish life. This is a responsibility that the Archbishop and the Priests of the Archdiocese have an unflagging commitment to uphold.

What gives me comfort and assurance is the person of Jesus Christ who is at the heart of the Church and whose grace is poured out to us in the Eucharist, and whose Spirit is a constant challenge to never be complacent in how we minister in Christ's name.

I ask that you keep in prayer those who were harmed by callous shepherds of the Church, that they might know the love and care of the true Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and that they might have healing. I ask that you pray that the face of Christ, by our prayers and commitment to living the Gospel, might become more and more visible to the world.

Fr. Hans M. Olson, Pastor

St. Mary Magdalen Parish/ St. John Mission