

# Fr. Jim's Letter to the Parish Regarding Abuse in the Church - August 28, 2018

August 28, 2018

Dear Friends,

I write to extend my gratitude for your prayers and support of our life in Christ together, especially during the current crisis in the Church after allegations against former Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and clergy and church leaders in Pennsylvania. Your faith is inspiring.

## **Recent News: June 20, 2018 & August 14, 2018**

You have heard of the allegations of abuse against Archbishop McCarrick, formerly of Newark, on June 20th. Then, on August 14th, the State of Pennsylvania's grand jury report showed a heartbreaking departure from our fundamental belief in the dignity and value of every child. Please pray for the victims of abuse and for the pursuit of justice.

## **Evening Prayer Services + Friday September 7 + Friday September 14**

At this time, we need not only human wisdom but also the light of prayer and contemplation to remember our need for Christ's sacrifice and example. He goes to the Cross, demonstrating that the weakness of God is stronger than human strength and the foolishness of God wiser than human wisdom. September 14 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. I invite you to join in prayer at these times and places:

- ▶ **Friday Sept. 7th, @ 6 to 10 pm. 1st Friday Adoration (@ Lourdes West Orange)**
- ▶ **Friday Sept. 14th, @ 6 to 10 pm. Church is open for prayer (@ Lourdes West Orange)**
- ▶ **Friday Sept. 14th, @ 7:30 pm. Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart (@ Newark)**

The cathedral service on Friday September 14th, at 7:30 pm is Cardinal Tobin's invitation to an Evening of Penance and Prayer, in reparation for and healing of all those impacted by the abuse crisis. Cardinal Tobin encourages us to make September 14 a day of fast and abstinence, similar to our Good Friday observance.

The church at Lourdes is open on September 14 for those who may not be able to be in Newark. I share with you recent statements of Pope Francis and Cardinal Tobin, about our prayer and discipleship at this time (below):

**Pope Francis:** *"[We are called to] see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord's command. (Matthew 17:21) This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says "never again" to every form of abuse."* (Excerpt / Reference: VATICAN.VA, Letter of His Holiness to the People of God, 20 August 2018)

[Click here for the full text of Pope Francis' letter](#)

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180820\\_lettera-popolo-didio.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180820_lettera-popolo-didio.html)

**Cardinal Tobin:** The Cardinal is in solidarity with Pope Francis, and in response to the August 22 statement of Archbishop Viganó about the scandal, responds: *“The factual errors, innuendo and fearful ideology of the “testimony” serve to strengthen our conviction to move ahead resolutely in protecting the young and vulnerable from any sort of abuse, while guaranteeing a safe and respectful environment where all are welcome and breaking down the structures and cultures that enable abuse. Together with Pope Francis, we are confident that scrutiny of the claims of the former nuncio will help to establish the truth.”* (Excerpt / Reference: RCAN.ORG, Archdiocesan News, Aug. 27)

[Click here for the full text of Cardinal Tobin's response](#)

<https://www.rcan.org/statement-response-testimony-archbishop-carlo-maria-vigan%C3%B2-former-apostolic-nuncio-united-states>

### **Our Dialogue / Your Comments**

It is my calling to be in conversation with you. I invite you to talk with me, if you have questions or concerns. You may contact me in person, or via email or telephone (below).

Thank you for your prayers and service to the Church.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Jim Ferry, Pastor

973.325.0110 x. 113, email: [FERRYJAM2@AOL.COM](mailto:FERRYJAM2@AOL.COM)

**I share with you these biblical verses, for your own reflection and prayer.**

### **Biblical Texts/Prayers – Justice (Prayer for the Victims)**

**The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. (Psalm 145:14-19)**

### **Biblical Texts/Prayers – The Body (Prayer of Respect for Every Person)**

**God has so constructed the body ... so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. (1 Corinthians 12:24-26)**

### **Biblical Texts/Prayers – Leadership (Prayer for The Church)**

**“The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:11-12)**