



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



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This past weekend, a movie called "Spotlight" won the Academy Award for "Best Picture". It is the story of how an investigative journalism department of the Boston Globe uncovered a massive scandal involving many dozens of priests accused of sexually abusing minors, and the subsequent cover up by their superiors.

I am glad "Spotlight" won this award.

Don't get me wrong; It was unbelievably painful to watch. In fact, I cried through it. I cried for the children who were abused. I cried too out of sorrow for the people who have lost faith in God and in the Church on account of these ugly truths.

Sadly, we know now that the scandal uncovered in Boston in 2002 was just the tipping point toward the uncovering of a national and international plague of clergy pedophilia and the collective cowardice of much of her leadership who turned a blind eye in various ways.

No, this filthy phenomenon is not isolated to the Catholic Church--I wish it were--but that is neither an excuse nor consolation. Some people in Church leadership have suggested that this movie should not be seen, that it is a Hollywood conspiracy against our beloved Church.

I say just the opposite; watch it and weep with Jesus. The real conspiracy was the one between the abusers and their protectors. The victim is not the Institutional Church, but rather the children who were abused and the faithful who lost faith. Then come back, if you will, and help us work humbly to make our parish a safe and holy place where all of us, especially the most vulnerable, may experience God's tender love.

Thank you, "Spotlight" producers and actors, for giving the Catholic Church, and our parish, the perfect Lenten penance.

Father Jonathan

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