

A Letter from Our Pastoral Coordinator September 09, 2018



May Christ's peace, joy and hope be with you all!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

I received a great deal of comments from parishioners after my homily this last weekend. This crisis in which we are involved is a serious one and yet may take many months to sort all of the issues out related to the Pennsylvania Grand jury report and our response to the hundreds of victims involved, Cardinal McCarrick's abuse and the fallout and accusations amongst some of our bishops in the Catholic Church.

As I stated, this crisis is a wake up call for not only our pastoral leaders but also for us. The systemic change that must occur for our hierarchy must include our own participation.

Below are the four "musts" with which concluded my homily. I also am including the "Amazing Parish" prayer I adapted. I invite you to consider to praying it with me daily.

We **must** all work for justice and pray for those who have been abused and taken advantage of by our leaders.

We **must** commit to and cling to Jesus; if we don't already, we must take far more seriously our relationship with God as if our lives depend in it, and in actuality our eternal lives do depend on it.

We **must** take a hard look at ourselves, and pledge ourselves to personal reform, go to confession regularly, consider our Eucharist and each other more reverently, seek faith-based fellowship with others and consider a pledge to spiritual direction.

We **must** commit more deeply to being humble and vulnerable servants yet incredibly strong warriors and witnesses – women and men of integrity who are faith-filled, honest, transparent, loving and accountable.

Heavenly Father, We thank you for gathering us together and calling us to serve as your disciples. You have charged us through Your Son, Jesus, with the great mission of evangelizing and witnessing your love to the world. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us in this time of great crisis as we discern your will for the spiritual and temporal renewal and cleansing of our Church. Restore all those who have been abused. Purify us and give us strength, courage, and clear vision as we use our gifts to serve you, love our neighbors, and work for justice especially for those who have been harmed by us. As we receive your Body and Blood today, help us to become your body and blood on earth. And as St. Theresa of Avila has inspired us – help us be "your feet, your eyes, your ears and your hands." We entrust our parish and our entire Church to the care of Mary, our mother, and ask for her intercession and guidance as we strive to bear witness to the Gospel in the world. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let's also pledge ourselves to keep Pope Francis, all Cardinals, Archbishop Sartain, Bishops Elizondo and Mueggenborg, all Bishops, priests and deacons in our daily prayers.

In God's great love, hope and mercy,

Deacon Jim

Deacon Jim Fish, Pastoral Coordinator
Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes
Archdiocese of Seattle

