

The incidents coming to light lately are not just a betrayal of the Church, but a betrayal of Jesus Christ. While this may be true, reacting in a way that cuts off our relationship with Jesus Christ is equally as wrong. The Devil wants us to lose sight of the Gospel and what Jesus did for us. That's why he has attacked us at a place that will hurt the most, with our church leaders preying on children and failing in leadership. During this time of trial in our Church, it is even more important that we, as individual lay and clergy of the church, focus on our relationship with Jesus, and stay close to him in the sacraments and in prayer.

For me, I am Catholic because I have a personal relationship with Jesus and I believe in what He has done for me. It is not because one of my best friends is a priest, not because I have a ton of fun at the Catholic center on campus, and certainly NOT because I approve of what the corrupt priests and bishops are doing. This goes for all of my friends at JMU. We love Jesus and recognize what He did to bring us to our Heavenly Father.

We will stay with Jesus, regardless of the issues we are facing. We want to see action and change, but we also do not want to see the people we look up to lose sight of the mission of the Catholic Church. We need to see our parents, our clergy members, and our good leaders of the Church staying strong and true to their faith in Him during this horrific time. We want to have a church to raise our kids in!

What can we do to spread the love and joy of Christ Jesus in this difficult time? We need to focus efforts on spreading the love and joy of the Eucharist. We can't do that unless we *know Him*. It is important that we focus on our individual, personal relationship with Christ, despite what the leaders of the Church have done, or are or are not currently doing. By deepening our relationship with God now, we are preparing our Church to avoid issues like this in the future.

Our Church is not defined by its human leaders, but by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. If we spend too much time focused on the evil and corrupt actions of these priests and bishops, we will lose sight of the true message of the Catholic Church: The good news of the forgiveness of our sins and our salvation through Jesus Christ.

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