



*Humility before God, Gentleness toward Neighbor*

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Dear Fellow OLG C Parishioners,

It would be hard to imagine that anyone reading this letter has not felt some range of emotions related to the recent Pennsylvania AG report on sexual abuse and cover-up in the Catholic Church. This hit close to home for me having grown up in PA and ministered to by one of the guilty. Who do I know that this evil person hurt and how has it impacted their lives? Sadness and disgust overwhelm me.

As Catholics, our pride is hurt and our trust is challenged. Some try to defend the 'why'...but there is no defense. Many want to point that this issue isn't just within the Catholic Church...but that doesn't make it any better. Others are filled with rage and anger towards the Church. What does it mean to be Catholic? Is it really worth it? What should I do?

Evil has no bounds but actions have consequences. While we cannot change the past, we most certainly can learn from it moving forward.

So what can and should we do as laity? Let's ask ourselves this at a personal level, as part of the OLG C community and as part of the Universal Church. The best tonic for pain is prayer. Pray for understanding and healing. Pray for those impacted by these terrible actions. Pray for our family, friends and strangers.

Some are questioning if they should or can continue to support our parish or Church. That is easy to understand with all that has transpired. As an OLG C community, we need all of us to be strong and support each other as we journey through the healing and reconciliation process together, including the Oblates who lead us. Imagine their pain and anguish? They are human too and need our prayers and support.

And as Catholics, we must not let evil conquer good. God is good. God loves us. Let's reciprocate that love to Him and one another through our actions and prayers.

Russ Weaver  
OLG C Pastoral Council President