

## OLGC ACT Transitioning to CAPACT, a Regional Catholic Coalition Dedicated to Working for an End to Clergy Sex Abuse

OLGC ACT is excited to announce its transition to Capital Advocates for Church and Transparency, CAPACT, with a goal to bring together a larger cross section of Catholic faithful. Effective July 1, CAPACT, made up of many OLGC parishioners energized around our mission “to educate and engage the community for the prevention of, and accountability for, clergy sex abuse,” will establish independent status with a regional home rather than being housed within the parish here at OLGC.

Supported by Father Matt and other parish leaders’ interest and dedication, OLGC ACT grew out of the parish’s “Prayers for Hope and Healing” town halls which began in August 2018. In his August 24 “Musing,” Fr Matt asked the OLGC community to: “... together continue to pray for the safety and security of our children, for the healing of victims of abuse, and that we might **do all that we can to ensure that the wrong-doing and the evil of the past are never repeated in the future.**”

To that end, here are just a few of OLGC ACT’s initiatives and successes in doing **all that we can**:

- Postcard campaign (over 100 postcards addressed by parishioners at the Donut Social) to Bishops Burbidge and Cupich urging them to act for transparency and accountability in advance of the Bishops attending a Vatican conference in February
- Parish visit by Vicar General Fr Ferguson in Feb 2019 pledging his solidarity with our mission and urging us to continue to make our voices heard
- Rosary in the Chapel in April to pray for survivors of sexual abuse
- With St John Neumann parish in Reston, a joint town hall with Fr Lou Fiorelli in June, detailing the Oblates of St Francis de Sales’ untiring efforts to educate, vet, counsel, and support seminarian formation to be ethical and effective parish priests
- Meetings with Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Head of Child and Youth Protection for the USCCB, and Fr Mark Padrez, Executive Director of CMSM where we received great encouragement for our efforts and their hope for our growth throughout the Diocese
- A three-point recommendation sent to the USCCB prior to the June 2019 USCCB Spring Assembly; receipt of feedback from General Secretary of the USCCB and head of the National Review board stating OLGC’s recommendation points would be part of the USCCB voting agenda
- Three press releases to 25 Catholic and mainstream media outlets highlighting our efforts to urge American Catholic Church leaders to move in concert with Pope Francis’ recent Apostolic Letter and calling for policy changes that would ensure the laity to be the sanctioned arm of accountability within the Church.

As Bishop Burbidge stated following the just-concluded June Conference of Bishops: “What I have heard from the faithful is, ‘We want greater transparency. We want accountability.’”

The newly-formed CAPACT invites all interested OLGC parishioners to join us in our larger, multi-parish form. Send an email to [CAPACT@capitalact.org](mailto:CAPACT@capitalact.org) to be part of our new CAPACT mailing list. We will be posting information about our expanded mission, meetings, initiatives, events, and opportunities for involvement on a new website, and will share information about that website for those on our email distribution list.

As we’ve said since the beginning of OLGC ACT’s formation: Come and see. Join us by adding your voices to call for changes to the Church we love and help us to ensure it is a Church our children feel safe in and love as we do. “When you tell the truth, justice is done.” Proverbs 12:17