



OUR LADY *of* GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Summary Notes from August 28, 2018 Prayer Service

Please note this is a quick summary of topics that were addressed during the reflection time. Attendees had a chance to express their thoughts, feelings, frustrations, questions, and ideas for moving forward. Please refer to our website news announcement for updates and resources.

<https://www.olgcva.org/news-post/~post/recent-allegations>

- There were approximately 130 -150 people in attendance.
- Meeting consisted of an Evening Prayer and Reflection followed by an hour and fifteen minutes of conversation with attendees.
- Fr. Matt gave a personal message of how he was doing.
- Issues raised
 - Asked about the reporting process
 - Process at OLG
 - Process with Oblates
 - Process in Diocese
 - Any OLG issues with priests?
 - No reported incidents have occurred at OLG
 - Fr. Matt noted that Fr. Robert J. Hermley who was assigned at OLG 1982-1991 was a priest that was listed as a sexual abuser but not during his assignment at OLG.
 - Some were surprised and others remember being told
 - Some parishioners remember being told by the priest during Mass.
 - For more information: Visit the Oblate website <http://www.oblates.org/healing> and the Bishops Accountability website <http://www.bishop-accountability.org/>
 - OLG has assisted parishioners in reporting cases of suspected child abuse that have occurred outside of OLG to legal authorities.
 - Hierarchy power within the church
 - Concern over Cardinal McCarrick and Cardinal Wuerl's actions
 - Lack of trust with Bishops to respond to issues
 - Concern over Pope Francis' knowledge
 - What did he know?
 - Why did he take so long to act?
 - Do not feel issues have been addressed

- Process improvement within the Church
 - Need process of action going forward without the Bishops and Cardinals to the Pope, possible laity in the role
 - Priests need a way of reporting issues not through their superiors
 - Priests need to be held to the Constitutional law
- Support of current priests
 - They are hurt and are grieving
 - We need to support them.
- Trust is broken in many forms
 - Need a way to bring that back
- People are leaving the church
 - Not sending children to Catholic school or CCF
 - Leaving their ministries (Lectors, EM, volunteers)
 - Don't let evil creep in
 - Don't abandon the church, the people are the church
 - Church members should not turn on each other there is more of a need to support one another
- How to incorporate more laity and women in the church?
- Is homosexuality an issue?
- Why is there pedophilia?
 - Need Factual information
 - Why priests?
 - What is % across the general population?
- Noted that sexual abuse is a scar in someone's life that does not go away
- Should Priests marry?
- Sexuality in general and its place in the Catholic Faith
- Discussion over background checks to volunteer with children
 - Some felt like a criminal to have to go through process
 - Some glad there is a process and that it is worthwhile
- Outside Responses that were noted:
 - [Visit the Diocese of Arlington website](#)
 - [Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison, Wisconsin letter August 18th](#)
- Our website will be kept up to date using this news announcement link that will remain on the home page as long as we deem necessary <https://www.olgcva.org/news-post/~post/recent-allegations>
- Another Meeting will be held to further the discussion of what OLGC can do and issue a response to Bishop Burbidge and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Fr. Matt suggested we use the name #ChurchToo to express our opinion.
- People can send their comments to be heard and be included in OLGC's action going forward to info@olgcva.org and can always contact Fr. Matt directly frhillyard@olgcva.org