



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings August 24, 2018

Action

After the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report last week, the initial reactions were shock, anger and condemnation of the actions of the guilty priests and bishops and prayers and calls for support of the victims. After this initial reaction, many people said that words were not enough and action is needed. Below is a letter sharing with us actions the diocese has taken to protect our youth. Also, there is an invitation for us to gather this Tuesday evening to pray and discuss the situation, including action we may take as a faith community.

Dear Members of OLG C Parish Community,

As we begin another school year, the current Church circumstances make it more urgent than ever that we renew for you our commitment to ensure that in our schools, our religious education programs and all church activities that involve our youth, we are doing everything we can to create a safe environment for our children. Once again, I reiterate that:

- Our diocese immediately reports all allegations of any kind of abuse or neglect of children to appropriate legal authorities.
- No priest or deacon against whom a substantiated claim of abuse has been made is currently serving in active ministry in our parish and diocese.
- Since 2002, every allegation of sexual abuse on the part of clergy has been investigated by our Diocesan Review Board, which from its very beginning has always been comprised of a majority of laymen and laywomen.

Further, a revamped landing page on our diocesan website www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Child-Protection provides information and links to:

- Diocesan policies that have been in place since 2002 to insure the protection of children and that provide a process for handling allegations of sexual abuse on the part of clergy.
- Bishop Burbidge's public statements and podcasts in which he has addressed these sensitive issues.

On behalf of all of the priests serving here at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, I assure you of the personal commitment of each one of us to strive daily to be faithful to the commitments we have made never to harm and only to protect and care for the safety and security of the children and young people of our Church.

On Tuesday, August 28th at 7pm in the Chapel, the OLG C Community is invited to attend a parish gathering to include a **Prayer Service for Healing of the Church:** *To pray for victims, survivors and all those affected by the actions of the church, her leaders and those called to protect*, followed by an opportunity for questions and a discussion on how we, the church, move forward.

Let us 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 insure that the wrong-doing and the evil of the past are never repeated in the future.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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