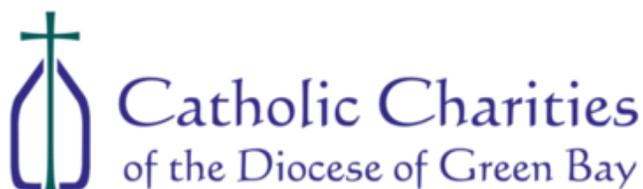
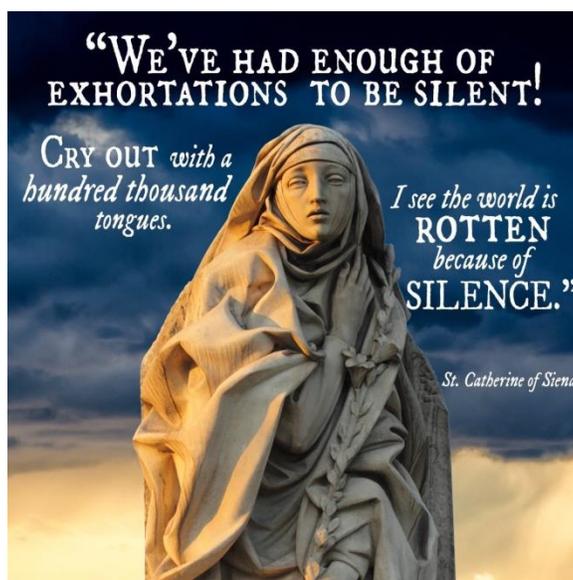


Community Prayer Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse Scandal



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Welcome

St. Teresa of Calcutta wisely said:

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."
Thank you for joining us as parts of the Body of Christ, for being mindful that we do, indeed,
belong to each other. Our purpose in coming together is to:

- Find support in this troubling time of the clergy sex abuse scandal.
- Share our honest feelings in a confidential, sacred space.
- Bring our hurting hearts to the tender love of God.

Overview

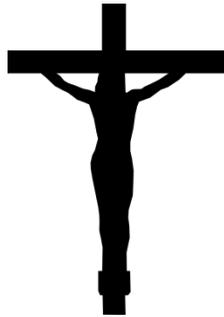
We will begin with a poem, followed by a prayer. We will have the opportunity to share our feelings about the clergy sexual abuse crisis without worry of being questioned or challenged about those feelings. We will be free from side conversations and focus respectfully on each person who speaks. In doing so, we will experience The Holy. Let us begin...

Prayer

† In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Lodged

The rain to the wind said,
"You push and I'll pelt."
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged--though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt. (*Robert Frost*)



Hearing Difficult News

Divine Companion,
the harsh voice of reality
thrusts its dagger into my heart.
Statements and facts
I do not want to hear
get lodged in my memory
and scrambled in my mind.

Help me not to panic.
I need to be patient
with what is before me,
to take one day at a time.
Grant me courage
to face the consequences
that may come from this situation.
May peace of mind and heart
soon return to me.
Amen.

*Your Sorrow is My Sorrow, by Joyce Rupp. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Sharing of Feelings

In pairs, small groups or whole group, depending on the number in attendance, with the goal of each having the option to speak, or not speak, for 1-3 minutes per person.

Prayer Intentions

† **In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Thank you, loving God, for this chance to come together in your name. We are grateful for our community support during this troubling time, as so many suffer as a result of the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Hear our prayers as we offer our intentions:

For persons who have been victimized by Clerical Sexual Abuse, those who suffered further from the wrongful cover-up by the Church:

That they are afforded the chance to tell their stories and be responded to by all of their sisters and brothers in Christ with dignity, restorative justice and pastoral care.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

For persons experiencing the triggering of memories of any kind of past abuse:

May all helpful means of pastoral care and support be offered to them by all members of the Church to assist in healing.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

For all who have a loved one who has been abused by clergy or anyone in authority:

May they find initial and ongoing support and care within the Body of Christ.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

For all who serve in ministry, those who are ordained, on staffs, and volunteers:

That they may be strengthened to continue their work in the Vineyard of the Lord, despite the oppressive weight of this crisis.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

For all of the Faithful who have had their trust in the Church damaged:

That they may experience healing through subsidiarity practices, with opportunities for participation in reconciling all that needs to be repaired.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

For the Entire Church:

Give all members of the Body of Christ the courage to speak out, advocate for victims, activate necessary changes, and to root out all that is not healthy or holy within the culture of the Church.

For these we pray, **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

We thank you, Loving God, for listening to our petitions. Grant us the wisdom and courage to lay all that corrupts the flourishing of each of your children out on the table of real, collaborative, co-responsible dialogue. Bless us with humility and the desire to release ourselves from the bondage of the sins of arrogance and pride. May our prayers and actions bring glory to You.

Together, let us pray the Serenity Prayer.

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next. Amen.

(Reinhold Niebuhr)



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, **Amen.**

Litany

All you holy angels and archangels, **Pray for us.**
St. (Insert Name), Patron of the Diocese of (Insert), **Pray for us.**
St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church, **Pray for us.**
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, **Pray for us.**
St. Teresa of Calcutta, Model of Pastoral Care, **Pray for us.**
Our Lady of Good Help, **Pray for us.**

† In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**