

WELCOME TO St. Augustine Catholic Church

MONROE & EAST CLINTON STREETS, NAPOLEON, OHIO 43545

PASTOR: Fr. Doug Garand

DEACONS: Jon Gottron, Robert Bost, senior status

PARISH MANAGER: Laurie Brubaker • SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Jim George

Join us for worship

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - school year
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - summer

Spanish Mass - 2nd Sunday each month, 1:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / FORMATION

*Educating all our children for lifelong, faithful,
participating membership in St. Augustine Parish*

- **ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL** (Pre K-8)
Jim George, principal, 419-592-3641
- **PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM** (1-8)
Sunday morning, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. during school year
Catholic Education for Parish children attending public school
- **LIFETEEN** (High School Youth)
Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m. during school year
- **PRE-SCHOOL** during Sunday 10:30 Mass



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM To schedule instructions for the Sacrament of Baptism: contact the church at 419-592-7656 before your child is born. Classes are held once every two months.

RECONCILIATION Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and by appointment.

ANointing OF THE SICK The Parish Office should be notified whenever any parishioner is suffering from severe or prolonged illness. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered by request.

MARRIAGE "As soon as a couple makes a decision to marry and at least six months before the anticipated wedding date they are to make contact with the priest/deacons in order to begin the various steps of the Marriage Preparation Program" (Diocese of Toledo Directive). Official dates for wedding celebrations at St. Augustine Parish must be approved by the Pastor or Parish Deacons.

ADULT INITIATION / FULL COMMUNION - RCIA Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the Catholic Church is invited to be a part of this formation process. Call the Parish Office for details.

HOLY ORDERS / VOCATIONS Contact the Parish Office.



REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday * 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Weekends

Parish Office: 210 E. Clinton St. 419-592-7656
Parish Email: saintaugustineoffice@gmail.com
Parish Fax: 419-592-6316
Parish Website: www.staugie.net
Deacon Jon Gottron 419-966-7106
Music Director - Alain Miller 419-966-2019
School: 722 Monroe St. 419-592-3641
School Email: jim.george@augustinenapoleon.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society 419-592-0438

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please arrange to register at the Parish Office

PRAYER CHAIN ~ Contact Janet Creager at 419-592-5799

Dear Parishioners:

In today's Gospel we read that, when Christ taught that he gave his flesh for the life of the world, many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it?' What does Jesus do as a result? **Does he change his teaching** in order to show his compassion? **Instead he demonstrates authentic love by repeating the truth, realizing that doing so would shake the faith of many who had followed him.** And the scriptures testify that "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." (John 6:66)

Jesus, taught the truth and truth cannot be changed! **Rather that change the truth, Jesus relies on the Church in her infancy and asks them: "Do you want to leave?"** (John 6, 67) The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: "This is a hard saying; who can accept it?" (John 6:60) The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. "Do you want to leave?" The Eucharist is indeed the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ and this truth can never change. Today people find this amazing reality a "stumbling block" and so reject Christ's teaching.

Scandals in the Church have people asking: "Do I want to leave?" As I reflect on that very question, the answer is that we are better and stronger in our unity and it is **the Eucharist that is the center of our unity.** People walking out of church have said "the Eucharist is the only reason I'm here." **Let us pray for cleansing, healing, and hope.** Write to Pope Francis with the information inserted in this bulletin. **Pray for the Church, fast and do penance to rid her of this present evil.**

Peter provides for us the leadership we need when he asks: "**Lord, to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced, that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69) As I reflect, I can say my response is the same!

As we receive Him in this Eucharist, **let us pray to be strengthened by the Eucharist that unites us as we "taste and see the goodness of the Lord."** Not a trick, but the gift of God! "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Peace,

Fr. Doug

Ministries for the Liturgies

Saturday, September 1, 2018 4:30 p.m.
Lector: Mary Hoeffel
Servers: Isaiah Irving, Owen Storch
Extraordinary Lary Irving, Alice Kleman, Jo Schwaiger
Min. of Com.: Shari Smith, Karen Westhoven
Ushers: John Eckenrode, Paul Martin

Sunday, September 2, 2018 8:00 a.m.
Lector: Rick Hoffman
Servers: Samuel McDougall, Alyssa Sifuentes
Extraordinary Deacon Jon Gottron, Mike Carpenter,
Min. of Com.: Bob Neiling, Holly Sifuentes
Ushers: Clete and Becky Schindler

Sunday, September 2, 2018 10:00 a.m.
Lector: Richard Fisher
Servers: Luke Hardy, AJ and Jillian Richard
Extraordinary Deacon Jon Gottron, Doug and Christy
Min. of Com.: Burgei, Sandra Martinez, Cheri Schuette,
Jim Wulf, **Volunteer (1)**
Ushers: Jeff Burkhart, Chad Roth

Eucharistic Ministers: Week of August 26, 2018

Nursing Home: Terri Franz
Homebound: Mary Gunter, Nelda Irving

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, August 25, 2018
4:30 p.m. - Bud Burken

Sunday, August 26, 2018
8:00 a.m. - Kathleen Gubernath
10:00 a.m. - For the Parish

Monday, August 27, 2018
8:45 a.m. - Communion Service

Tuesday, August 28, 2018
8:45 a.m. - Mass

Wednesday, August 29, 2018
6:00 p.m. - Sharon Garand

Thursday, August 30, 2018
8:45 a.m. - Wayne White

Friday, August 31, 2018
8:45 a.m. - Wm. Rodenhauser and Betty Schmiesing

Saturday, September 1, 2018
4:30 p.m. - Ken Kryling

Sunday, September 2, 2018
8:00 a.m. - For the Parish
10:00 a.m. - Earl and Victoria Auster Miller

Tellers: September 4, 2018 - Andy Driskel, Rene Fisher,
Lynn Thourot, Joanne Westhoven

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., Sept. 1 William Gilson - Sara Lauf Wedding 1:30 p.m.
Confessions 3:30 p.m.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
PARISH OFFERTORY**

Sunday Collection	\$	4,223.00
Assumption of Mary	\$	1,003.00
On-Line Giving	\$	2,133.00
School	\$	730.00
Sunday collection year-to-date	\$	60,292.78

To use the convenient online giving option, please visit:
www.staugie.net and select online giving from the side menu.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

- Reginald Greenham (84) - 8/27/93
- Marguerite Phillips (80) - 8/27/96
- Helen A. Brinkman (75) - 8/27/13
- Lucille Dorothy "Marty" Frank (87) - 8/29/99
- James P. Westhoven (84) - 8/29/08
- Thomas P. Konwinski (78) - 8/30/93
- Teri L. Saneholtz (48) - 8/30/10
- Lydia Mendoza (58) - 9/2/97
- Mary Katherine "Kak" Yaney (74) - 9/2/99

Remember those who have gone before us, please pray for them. Due to space we are listing only the past 25 years. If you would like a parishioner listed who passed away longer than 25 years ago, please contact the office.

PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM (PRP) will begin on Sunday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. Class will end at 9:45 a.m. because Mass is still at 10:00 a.m. Registration papers were sent in the mail last week. If you have not received them yet, call the church office, leave your name and address. We will get those sent immediately. We have a dedicated team of teachers who share their faith with the children of our parish. Some of these teachers have been dedicated for many years.

- Gr. 1 - Mrs. Jen Roth
- Gr. 2 - Mrs. Susan Gray
- Gr. 3 - Mrs. Kara Miller
- Gr. 4 - Mrs. Katie Taylor
- Gr. 5 - Mrs. Diane Hardy
- Gr. 6 - Mrs. Laurie Gilson
- Gr. 7 - Dr. Michael Carpenter
- Gr. 8 - Mrs. Morgan Weber and Mr. Michael Weber

BANNS OF MATRIMONY

- I - Drake Dulaney and Amanda Reiser
- III - William Gilson and Sara Lauf

FROM THE SCHOOL

Well, school got underway this week. Parents and students visited on August 20th bringing in supplies and forms. The school looked immaculately clean. I would like to thank Jeff Steingass, Robin Patton, and Kevin Glanz for doing a wonderful job. New fencing replaced some of the old and was added on the south side. "Augie Frog" is gone, and has been replaced with two pieces. Our first day of school was August 22.

Just a few more tips for a smooth back-to-school start. 1) **Make homework a priority.** Help your child develop a daily homework habit by designating a consistent place and time to do school work. Discuss problems with school work with your child's teacher. At St. Augustine you can contact any teacher at any time on Fast Direct information system. 2) **Prepare a study area.** Creating a school work space in your home helps your child understand that education is a priority. Be sure to offer praise for good efforts. 3) **Take charge of TV time.** Limit television time and be aware of what your child is watching. Mature content can be harmful to children, and too much screen time can affect learning. This also goes for social media and gaming systems. 4) **Get everyone to bed on time.** Proper rest is essential for academic success and brain development. Transition from summer break by switching sleep schedules to school hours a week before school starts. 5) **Plan to read with your child every day.** Daily reading helps develop literacy skills, sets a great example for children and provides a special time for bonding. This one is one of the most important tips of all. This information came from Insights for Families which is produced by Marcia Latta. Jim George, Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 8/27 - William Morey, Estella Sifuentes
- 8/28 - Libby Ball, Crystal Genter, Steven Rieger
- 8/29 - Coreen Ball, Adam Ellerbrock, Benjamin Majewski, Doug Monnin, Jose Sifuenes
- 8/30 - Scott Baker, Paul Dick, Austin Flores-McCloud, David Hill, Elliott Vocke
- 8/31 - Israel Flores, Emily Nemire, Heriberto Sanchez
- 9/1 - Heather Collins, Julie Harmon, Jennifer Huber, Andrew Reiser, Randall Schuette
- 9/2 - Gerald Elliott, Richard Fisher

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULE - We will soon begin working on the next ministry schedule that will run from October through January. We will be scheduling for All Saints Day on November 1st, All Souls Day on November 2nd, Immaculate Conception on December 7th and 8th, and Christmas and New Years Day masses. Just a reminder to log onto the Ministry Scheduler Pro website to update your profile with any dates that you do not want to volunteer. This needs to be done by August 31st.

Save the Date

September

15th, 16th - Turtle Fest

November

30th - Christmas House

December

1st, 2nd - Christmas House

TURTLE FEST NEWS

Volunteer Sign Up Sheets are in the back of Church.

Please consider offering some of your time to help our Festival run smoothly.

Country Store - Remember that the Country Store will gladly accept your donations of fresh or canned fruits and vegetables, craft items and baked goods. We will start taking donations Friday, September 14 in the school gym.

Jewelry - If you have jewelry you do not use or want, please consider donating your items to the Turtle Fest again this year. Drop off your items (necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc.) at the church office **as soon as possible** to allow time for cleaning for resale. You can also call Shirley Niese (419-308-6172) for drop off or pick up.

Desserts, desserts, desserts - We will be in need of desserts to serve with our Saturday and Sunday dinners during Turtle Fest. Please plan to donate cake, pie, cookies, etc. Donations will be received in the Parish Hall throughout Turtle Fest weekend.

Spread the word!! Please spread the word about our 20th Anniversary Celebration!! Tell your friends, family and coworkers. There are fliers in the back of church if you would like them.

Raffle Tickets - You should have received 10 tickets in the mail. If you did not receive tickets, there are envelopes with tickets in the back of church. We ask that each family sell \$30.00 worth of tickets which will help make the raffle a success. To encourage folks in selling (or buying) their tickets, we have a special offer:

Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00.

Special offer is 10 tickets for \$30.00 if returned by September 10.

We will have **three \$50.00 Early Bird raffles in August**. To qualify for the Early Bird Raffle, **your tickets must be returned to the parish office by noon on the following days: August 17, August 24 and August 31.**

Questions - Feel free to contact Amy or Mark Morman at 419-966-4168 (Amy) or 419-579-6715 (Mark).

AREA FESTIVAL - St. Paul Catholic Church, Hamler (to be held at Hamler Summerfest Park, S.R. 109, Hamler) on Sun., Sept. 2. Pork Tenderloin and Chicken dinners to be served from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Carryouts available.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION will take place each First Friday of the month after 8:45 a.m. Mass until 5:30 p.m. We will have a sign-up sheet in the back of the church and would appreciate folks filling the day so that our Lord is not exposed on the altar without anyone present. If you are not able to come for your hour of adoration, please call Jane Recker at 419-508-0711. The day will end with Benediction at 5:30 p.m.

CPC STEPS FOR LIFE WALKATHON, COLOR RUN & FAMILY FUN DAY - event will take place on Sat., Sept. 15 from 8 - 11 a.m. at MacDonald-Ruff Ice Arena, Bryan.. Sign up at events.cpcnwo.org. To receive a walkathon packet call 419-636-5692.

CPC BAKE SALE FOR 'STEPS FOR LIFE' WALKATHON Volunteers are needed bake items for bake sale for walkathon. Please bring your goodies to the Walk at MacDonald-Ruff Ice Arena on Townline Road in Bryan on Sat., Sept. 15. Please have baked goods at the park by 9:00 a.m.

COME AND SEE RETREAT - Have you ever pondered whether God is calling you to become a Sister? The Dominican Sisters of Peace invites single, Catholic women, ages 18-45, to learn about contemporary religious life. The retreat begins at 5:30 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 7 and concludes at 1 p.m., Sun., Sept. 9 at the Dominicans Motherhouse, 2645 Bardstown Rd., St. Catharine, KY 40061. For more info, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald at 570-336-3991 or email jfitzgerald@oppeace.org.

MASS CELEBRATING MERCY OF GOD AND MEMORIAL SERVICE - Have you or someone you love experienced a loss due to stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion? Join us for a Mass and a Memorial Service at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 20 at St. Rose Parish, 215 E. Front St., Perrysburg. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Daniel Thomas and concelebrated by Rev. George Wenzinger and Rev. David Kidd. There will be Sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass at 7:30 p.m. Fellowship will follow in church cafeteria. For more info, call Clarissa Lapinski at 419-583-6817 or email her at clapinski@toledodiocese.org

NIGHT OF HEALING - Mass of Deliverance and Reparation will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Oedy on Thurs., Sept. 13 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jerome Parish, Walbridge. After the Mass, Fr. Tom will anoint individuals. For more info, call Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal at 419-691-6686 or go to mccrholyspirit.org.

Want to know more about the Catholic Faith?

“I’m not Catholic”

Why not? What’s holding you back? Fear? Doubt? Guilt? Confusion?
Come learn more through RCIA and have your questions
answered about the Church established by God himself!

“I’m already Catholic”

Isn’t it time to go deeper? To learn more? To ask more?
Come discover riches of the Faith you may not know!

Perhaps you’re not Catholic but have questions. Maybe you’ve felt something
calling you to communion with Christ and His Church. Maybe you come
regularly to Mass but haven’t yet made the next step. Maybe you aren’t ready
to actually join the Church but just want to know what it’s all about.

This is the chance for you.

Perhaps you are already Catholic and don’t think you need to know more. Or
maybe you have doubts or questions. It is vitally important in these days for
Catholics to know their faith well. Amidst cultural opposition, scandal, and a
world generally opposed to Christian faith, serious Catholics must “always be
prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope
that is in us,” (1 Peter 3:15).

Catholic - can you defend your faith?

Classes will be ***Thursdays 6:30pm-8:30pm*** in the Parish Hall
beginning Thursday, September 6, 2018

This opportunity for ongoing faith formation
at St. Augustine is open to *everyone* at no cost!

Considering RCIA? **Please come!**

Have questions about the Catholic Church and Faith? **Please come!**

Have a non-Catholic spouse or friend? **Please invite them!**

*“I will go peaceably and firmly to the Catholic Church: for if Faith is so important to
our salvation, I will seek it where true Faith first began, seek it among those who
received it from God Himself.” – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

Questions? Want more information?

Contact Ray Rondini

rayrondini@gmail.com

440.522.2954

Pope calls entire Church to pray and fast after clerical sex abuse revelations

August 20, 2018 CNA Daily News

Vatican City, Aug 20, 2018 / 05:55 am (CNA/EWTN News).- **Pope Francis called Monday** for every member of the Catholic Church to **pray and fast in penance for the evil of clerical sex abuse, and to be involved in needed change within the Church.**

“The only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God,” Francis wrote Aug. 20.

In a letter to the entire Church following widespread revelations of clerical sex abuse in the Church in the United States, **the pope invited “the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting,** following the Lord’s command.”

“This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says ‘never again’ to every form of abuse,” he said. “Every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need.”

In the letter, **Francis acknowledged the recent publication of a report detailing abuse in six Pennsylvania dioceses,** which included more than 300 priests and 1,000 victims, **over a period of around 70 years.**

Recognizing the deep pain and suffering endured by many minors who have experienced sexual abuse, or the abuse of power or conscience, at the hands of clerics, he said no effort to seek pardon or to repair the harm will ever be enough.

“Looking ahead to the future, **no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated,**” he stated.

He said the words of St. Paul, that **“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it’** ... forcefully echo” in his heart.

The pope also emphasized that he thinks a conversion of the Church is “impossible” if it does not include the “active participation” of all the members of the Church, and he criticized the silencing or ignoring of some Catholics through the creation of elitist groups or projects.

In particular, all forms of clericalism should be rejected, he said, because clericalism undervalues baptismal grace and can lead to abuses by Church authority. Clericalism causes “an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today.”

Voicing strong support for all the victims of clerical sex abuse and for their families, he said though most of the cases recently come to light, “belong to the past,” as time goes on the pain of the victims has come to be more known.

He said the gravity and extent to which clerical sexual abuse of minors and other abuse has happened takes “coming to grips... in a comprehensive and communal way,” and while conversion requires acknowledgment of the truth, it is “not enough.”

“This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does... to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help,” he stated.

The penitential aspect of fasting will help Catholics to come before the Lord “as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion,” so that actions “attuned to the Gospel” can follow, he explained.

He prayed that fasting and prayer will open people’s ears to the pain of children, young people, and the disabled, that it will make Catholics “hunger and thirst for justice,” and impel the Church “to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary.”

“It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable,” he continued.

“Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others,” he said. “An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allow us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.”

The full text of the letter may be found at:

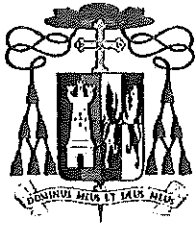
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-08/pope-francis-letter-people-of-god-sexual-abuse.html>

The mailing address of Pope Francis is:

**His Holiness Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City State**

(Do NOT use Italy or Rome in address) International postage is \$1.15 for one ounce; you can buy a special international stamp at the post office.

- 1) Forms of address in a letter are: Your Holiness, or Dear Pope Francis.
In the body of the letter one would use “Your Holiness.”
- 2) You write to respectfully express your love for the Church and the need for accountability among the US Bishops, particularly in the “Dallas Charter” where they have excluded themselves from any review or oversight.
We feel the anguish and pain of the victims asking that he move swiftly and clearly to make the needed changes for justice and accountability.
- 3) Thank him for his ministry as Pope, offer to pray for him and ask for his prayers.
- 4) Sign the letter and include your full name and return address.
- 5) If you include your phone number, the Pope has been known to call folks.
The Pope receives a lot of mail, so get to the point in one page. This is the best option for correspondence actually reaching the Holy Father.



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

+

20 August 2018

Letter to the Faithful regarding sexual abuse in the Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Who is weak that I am not affected by it, who is scandalized that I am not aflame with indignation?” (2 Cor 11:29). These words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians flood my heart and soul these days following the recent revelations of the depraved moral failures of some priests and bishops whose actions or inactions have so wounded the vulnerable and betrayed the trust of the faithful. As a bishop and shepherd of the Church, I cannot express strongly enough the anger and sorrow I feel for the physical, spiritual and emotional pain and suffering endured by survivors and their loved ones. You have my deepest sorrow and fervent prayers for healing. Nor can I express strongly enough how committed we are to providing support and assistance to those who have been hurt, and to renewing our efforts to prevent such abuse.

When I learned of the sexual abuse and immorality of former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, and that of certain priests and bishops over a period of more than 70 years recounted in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report, I was angry, shamed and sick at heart. The abuse of a minor on the part of anyone, especially a cleric, is a grave moral evil and cannot be tolerated. During these days I have received questions and comments expressing the justified anger, hurt and betrayal many feel regarding the accounts of clerics who turned away from their sacred vows and moral responsibility to protect children and the vulnerable by abusing them or allowing that abuse to continue. You are rightly scandalized and aflame with indignation.

We cannot, must not and will not tolerate any abuse within the Catholic Church. We will continue to be diligent in responding to accusations in a timely and just manner, no matter who is accused or when the abuse took place. I want to reassure you of what we have done and continue to do here in our diocese to accomplish this:

With reforms put in place since 2002, the Church in the United States and our diocese have made the prevention of abuse part of our ecclesial culture. Since that time, instances of reported abuse of minors have radically declined. That year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted a Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/charter.cfm>), pledging to do all in their power to protect children and youth and devote the resources necessary to accomplish that goal. This Charter was revised and updated in 2005, 2011 and again in 2018. This Charter commits me, and my fellow bishops, to respond promptly and compassionately to victims, to report the abuse of any minor to law enforcement, to treat swiftly and justly allegations of abuse, to offer care to victims, to discipline offenders, and to take ongoing action to prevent abuse.

Letter to the Faithful
20 August 2018
Page Two

We are committed to ongoing safe environment training for all who serve our youth, to conducting criminal background checks and to taking every allegation seriously. In May 2018, the Diocese of Toledo updated, revised and strengthened our own *Policy for the Protection of Minors and Young People with Accompanying Standards of Behavior and Boundaries and Guidelines for the Prevention of Abuse of Vulnerable Adults* (https://toledodiocese.org/page/protecting-youth-victim-assistance#_policy_for_the_protection_of_minors) in order to make clear what is required for all those in our diocese who serve children, youth and vulnerable adults, and to guarantee as best we can a safe environment for all. Today and going forward we must prove, by our actions, that we are committed to the safety of children and the vulnerable.

At the same time, as important and necessary as such policies are, it is even more important that to follow them faithfully and achieve their intent, we must acknowledge and address in earnest the root and cause of such abuse: grave moral failures which are the direct result of heinous sin and the lack of accountability. Unless our policies have the underpinning of lives of moral integrity lived by those whose responsibility it is to see they are enforced, they remain ineffective.

Together with all of you who are so faithful to the Church, I lament that when many thought perhaps the Church was on the road to recovery from such a scourge inflicted by her own, it feels now as if the scab has been torn off again, the pain of that wound even more raw than before. Sexual abuse in the Church is a deep wound, a wound which is the result of a cancer which clearly has not yet been excised. This cancer in the Church requires a response which goes beyond the practical or the human, it requires a response which is deeply spiritual and supernatural. Because this cancer is evil and “this kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting” (Mk 9:29).

As a Church, our mission must be the mission to which Christ Jesus himself calls us all: to conversion, to forgiveness, to healing and to holiness. This call starts first with myself in fidelity to Christ and to you, His flock, as your bishop. It continues with all my brother bishops, calling us to the moral integrity, paternal responsibility and accountability our sacred office requires. This call includes all our priests and seminarians, together with whom I am called to live a life of virtue, purity and chaste celibacy, in order to restore the integrity of the priesthood.

I turn once again to Saint Paul, who writes: “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Rom 5:20). In the face of this moment of trial and purification, I encourage all those who have suffered abuse to report it first to law enforcement and then to our Office for Child and Youth Protection and Victim Assistance at 419-214-4880. I encourage all those who serve our children and vulnerable individuals to redouble their commitment to the safety of those entrusted to our care through fidelity to established policy and to moral integrity of life.

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Walker - Hoening
Mortuary

419-592-6015

Snyder - Hoening
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419-264-3401

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