



Saint Simon Catholic Parish

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October 11, 2018

Feast of Saint John XXIII

Dear Parishioners:

Once again, our Catholic Church is in crisis and I share in your sadness especially for the victims of sexual abuse of minors and your weariness as Catholics facing yet another scandal. As your pastor, I have been praying on how to address this crisis with you. It is my faith in Jesus the Christ of God that holds and grounds me. It is also my faith in our future as a St. Simon community, and the power that our community has when we come together, when we pray together, when we help each other at times of need, when we help others outside of our community. These are the things that keeps me close to my faith, and reminds me that the Spirit of the Lord continues among us and will continue to protect and guide us as we work through this extremely troubling and disheartening time.

As you might know, I shared an "essay" in our parish bulletin about wearing the Roman collar and the pain that comes with it, not so much for the clergy, but for those young victims who may have suffered the horror of sexual abuse at the hands of clergy who should have protected them. I have also included comments in my Sunday homilies following the investigation and results of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury.

In troubled times, it's all the more important to come together as a community. Please take the time to join one or several of the following opportunities for us to pray together at our Litany of Healing on **October 13** following the 5:00 pm Mass, **October 21** following the 9:00 am Mass and **October 28** (our patron feast day) following the 5:00 pm Mass.

I strongly recommend that you view the following video by Bishop Robert Barron, an auxiliary Bishop in Los Angeles Archdiocese. <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/article/why-remain-catholic-with-so-much-scandal/17244/>. He addresses the topic "**Why remain Catholic with so much scandal.**" **I have scheduled October 18, Feast of St Luke the Evangelist, 7 - 8 PM to have a viewing and discussion on the video in the Church and I invite all interested to participate.**

Our coadjutor Bishop Oscar Cantu has joined his voice to that of Bishop McGrath and has clearly indicated that our diocese will offer transparency, accountability and humility as our local church of San Jose deals with the ongoing investigation and outreach to any sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults in the county of Santa Clara.

Kindly remember the victims of sexual abuse in your daily prayers, that they may find healing, and pray too for justice to prevail for perpetrators and leaders in the Church who are found credibly guilty of covering up or failing to take proper action. I believe our healing will take a significant amount of time, but we will walk through this in faith and confidence because we know and cling to the promises of Christ.

Prayers and Blessings,

Fr. Warwick James, Pastor