



St Olaf
Catholic Church

21st Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 26, 2018

St. Olaf Catholic Church ■ Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 ■ 612-332-7471 ■ www.SaintOlaf.org

Never Again

By Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

This has been a difficult week in the Church. Once again, the sexual abuse of children has come to the forefront. While the events of this abuse in the Dioceses of Pennsylvania span decades, this is the first time I know of that the horrific details have been graphically outlined in Grand Jury testimony that was given by the victims.

Also, in the Report are the names of Bishops who covered up the abuse, and did what they could to keep this criminal activity from embarrassing the Church. The Bishops were taken to task for their utter failure to act on behalf of the victims first and foremost. What shakes the souls and wellbeing of members of the Catholic Church is how our leadership failed to protect children and vulnerable adults from predatory priests and religious. Instead, the Grand Jury argues, they chose to protect the perpetrators and do their best to prevent tarnishing the image of the Church in the process.

The Bishops mentioned in the Report have stated that the times were different years ago when many of these crimes were being committed. They say they have learned much since then about the

appropriate ways to act when they learn one of their priests has been discovered doing these things. They claim, since their awareness has grown over time about how to handle these situations, they have worked tirelessly to prevent these crimes from being committed again. They have begun to treat the victims first by encouraging them to call law enforcement and report the abuse to police. They say they are much more compassionate to victims when they come forward now and report abuse. All of what these Bishops say is true.

However, it begs the question. When has there ever been a time in our society when sexually abusing children and vulnerable adults has not been a criminal act and the perpetrator — priest or not — when identified, is immediately turned over to law enforcement officials to investigate and charge if the abuse claim is credible?

This past week the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for an independent investigation led by the Vatican of the findings of the Grand Jury in Pennsylvania. It is a step in the right direction. But unfortunately, Vatican investigations and their findings often remain secret. If this is the

protocol the Vatican follows with this investigation, it will be a waste of their time. The laity, the priests, the religious, and the bishops deserve an open and transparent process where the findings lead to genuine change.

No doubt, Catholics in Pennsylvania and in other places will continue to vent their anger — justifiably so. Some will choose to leave. Some will stop contributing. Others will stay and continue to participate and yet be wary of the leadership of our Church. No matter what the choice is for Catholics going forward, it is clear they can no longer be left out of the equation as the Church tries to navigate forward. The collaboration between the laity and the leadership of the Church, called for by the Second Vatican Council, is desperately needed at this time.

Unless this generation of Bishops reaches out to them for help and heeds their assistance in solving this catastrophic failure in their leadership in Pennsylvania and other dioceses across the country, the Church will continue to suffer greatly. If indeed financial contributions dry up and participation dwindles, the mission we all have to proclaim the Gospel

continued on back

continued from front

of Jesus Christ, will be compromised.

Maybe now, the Bishops finally realize the severity of what years of child abuse has done to those victimized and how they and their predecessors failed to protect them in their vulnerability. May they commit to making the changes in themselves as individuals and as a community of leaders so what happened to children in dioceses across this country will never happen again.



Reminder

Hospitality after Masses resumes in September.

OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12.

The online St. Olaf community pre-sale for tickets to OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC, featuring The Steeles, runs from 10:00 am Aug 20 **EXTENDED to 11:59 p.m. Aug 27.** Use code/Password: **STOLAF1941**. Purchase tickets at: www.suemclean.com. Type "The Steeles" in the search box. To buy a table, pay by check, volunteer or for more info about this inaugural event, please contact: FRMurnane@SaintOlaf.org or 612-767-7635. Thank you!

First Communion & First Reconciliation Registration

If you have a child 8-12 years, Saint Olaf's Sacramental Program for First Communion and First Reconciliation registration begins now! Deadline for registration is September 2, 2018. Please call the office as soon as possible to register. This is a home-based program where parents are the primary support. We have mandatory student classes Sept-April, approximately two times a month on Sundays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. There will also be three mandatory parent meetings on Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 throughout the year. Thank you!

St. Olaf Book Club will meet on September 9 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. *The Sleeping Witness: A Father Gabriel Mystery* by Fiorella De Maria.

Becoming Catholic

St. Olaf will begin the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes on Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Classes will run through May 11. Anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic, either from another faith tradition or who has never been baptized, is welcome to attend. We ask that you contact Fr. Michael Krenik (612-767-6209 or frmkrenik@SaintOlaf.org) to register. We are also in need of sponsors, parishioners willing to walk with the candidates through the RCIA process.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional info at: SaintOlaf.org/events

Saturday, August 25

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**
4:00 p.m. **Mass**

Sunday, August 26 — 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 a.m. **Mass**
8:00 a.m. **Mass**
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
10:00 a.m. **Mass**
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
4:00 p.m. **Mass**

Monday, August 27

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
7:30 a.m. Samaritan Ministry Hospitality
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
12:00 p.m. AA

Tuesday, August 28

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**

Wednesday, August 29

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
7:00 a.m. AA
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
12:00 p.m. AA
7:30 p.m. Alanon

Thursday, August 30

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**

Friday, August 31

(Office closed on Fridays)

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
12:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, September 1

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**
2:00 p.m. African Choir Rehearsal
4:00 p.m. **Mass**