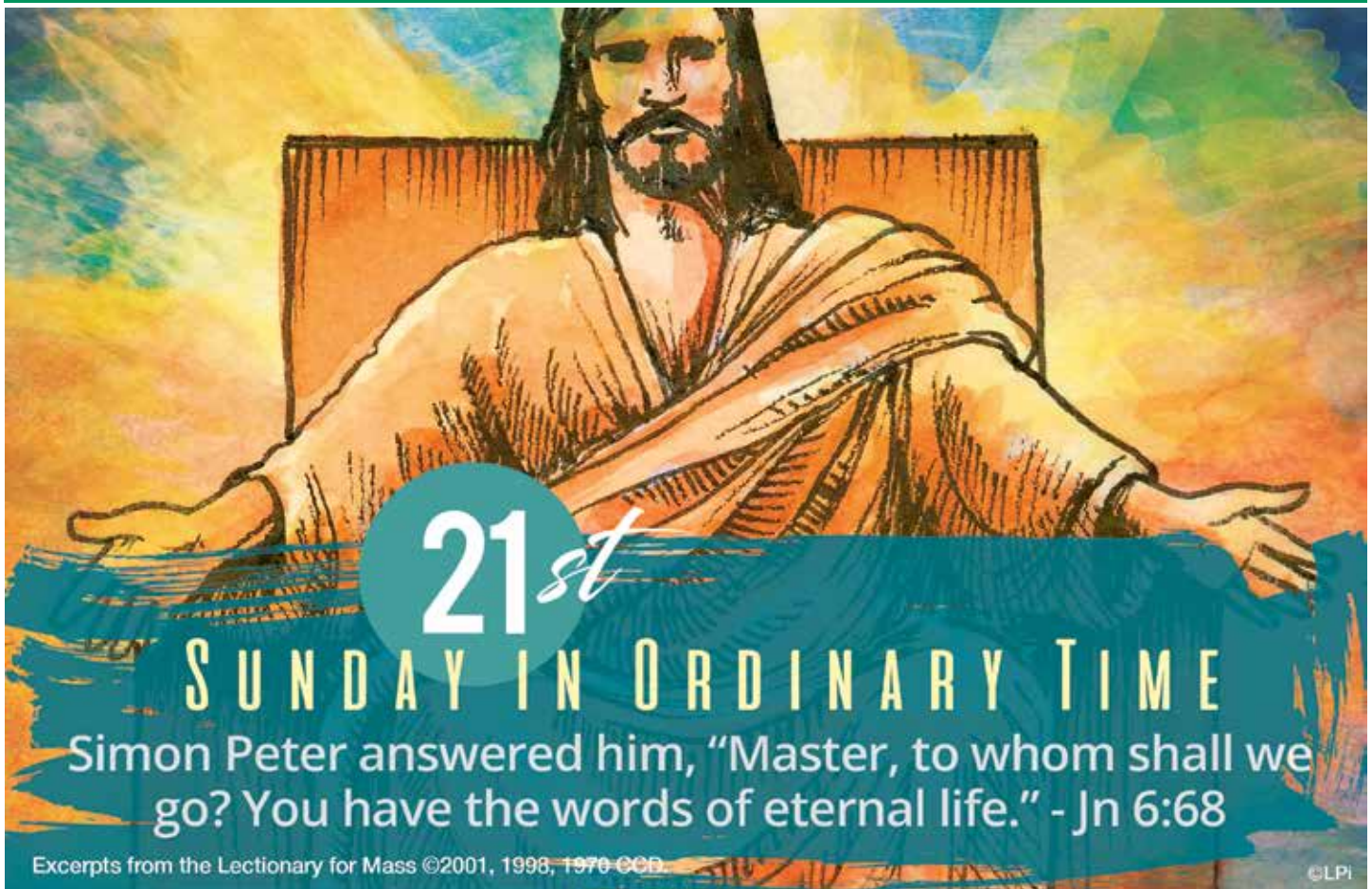


# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, August 26, 2018

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



## HAPPENINGS AT THE HEART

Religious Ed Registration	Sunday, August 26 After All Masses
Knight of Columbus Meeting	Tuesday, August 28, 7:00pm
AA Meeting	Thursday, August 30, 12 Noon
Men's Bible Group	Saturday, September 1, 7:30 am
AA Meeting	Saturday, September 1, 8:00 am

 **Please Welcome**  
**OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Mrs. Sharon Clelend**



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION 2018-2019

### FOR FIRST THROUGH EIGHT GRADE

**Saturday, August 25th**  
after 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, August 26th**  
after 9:00am and 11:00am Mass

**Saturday, September 8th**  
after 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, September 9th**  
after 9:00am and 11:00am Mass

Any day in Sacred Heart Office  
between these dates



## HEARTS ON FIRE at Sacred Heart

Where Faith is Known,  
Lived, & Shared

*I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing. (Luke 12:49)*

As you read the Archbishop's letter, based on Synod 16, ask yourselves, "What is the Holy Spirit saying to me?"

**LISTEN to the Archbishop: GUIDEPOST 2 — WITH EYES FIXED ON JESUS; Marker 2.2: The Kerygma (cont):** "The kerygma...needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal... On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: **Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.**; This first proclamation is called 'first' not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways..." (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel).

**UNLEASH THE GOSPEL**, pg 21

**PRAY:** *Tear or cut off this prayer and keep it where you'll remember to pray it throughout the week*

*Come, Holy Spirit, to us at Sacred Heart Church. Open the ears of our hearts and minds to hear this "principal proclamation" of Jesus' love and care for us. Stir up in us a commitment to make this proclamation the "center of all evangelizing activity" in our parish and of any efforts for renewal of the Church. May it always be in our minds and on our lips, ringing out over and over, so it is heard "again and again in different ways." Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen*

**ACT:** What is the Holy Spirit saying to you in this letter? Imagine you were talking to someone who wonders why you are a Catholic Christian. In response to them, restate Pope Francis' words of the kerygma (in bold above) in your own words.

To read the entire letter, "Unleash the Gospel" go to [unleashthegospel.org](http://unleashthegospel.org)

# WE NEED YOU!

The Sacred Heart Religious Education Program is run completely on a Volunteer basis, therefore it is important for every member of our community to volunteer to assist in the evangelization of our youth. The following is a listing of different ways you can help:

1. Pray daily for the children, their parents, their teachers that their knowledge and love of God and their relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit be watered and fertilized so it can grow in good soil and reap a bountiful harvest for the Lord
2. Assist in sharing your faith with the students (teacher, or teachers aid).
3. Assist in running service projects.
4. Assist in setting up special events (Pot Lucks, Movie Nights).

For further information please stop by the religious education table on the weekend of Aug 26th or Sept 9 or contact the DRE, **Michael Merlo at 248-852-4170, ext 12.**

## HELP IS NEEDED IN SERVING JESUS

**Want to be hands and feet of Christ? Looking for a meaningful ministry?**

Why not help facilitate a Catholic Scripture Communion Service at a local Senior Facility (American House(s) and Oakmont). Sacred Heart is spiritually responsible for many senior care facilities in the area, so many volunteers are desperately needed. The ministry is set up to ask for only ONE day a month of your time for about an hour. Everything is provided for you; you just need to bring your servant's heart. You will be paired up with another seasoned volunteer so you won't have to go alone.

Interested? Want to try it out? Please contact

**Laura Langlois at 248-253-9220**

## MOTOWN HISTORIC MUSEUM TOUR

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

**2648 W Grand Blvd., Detroit**

This is an interactive tour of the house where Barry Gordy had his Motown recording studio and residence. Meet at 1pm for a 1 hour tour with lunch following at Slow's Bar BQ, 2138 Michigan Ave.. Family style meal with 2 meats, 2 sides, cornbread, tax & tip included for \$30 (does not include drink) .

**Check must be in by September 1st. Please call Gerry at 734 259-5024 for further information and RSVP.**



*Widowed Friends is a "peer" support group. For further information about Widowed Friends, come visit our website at [www.widowedfriends.org](http://www.widowedfriends.org)*





## FALL ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

This fall Sacred Heart will be offering several programs to enhance the most important part of our lives, our faith. On September 16th we will have an opportunity to sign up for these events. Listed below is this fall's faith growing opportunities:

- **Sunday Morning from 10:00 – 10:50am**  
“The Mass” – Bishop Barron walks us through the liturgy to bring us insights and transformation of the most privileged and intimate encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Mass will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian Life.
- **Monday Afternoon from 1:00 – 2:30pm**  
“Angels” – Walk through the Scriptures and Church documents to identify how God uses angels to assist us in our spiritual walk and to guide us during our mortal life.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study from 9:30 – 11:00am**  
“Fulfilled” – Sonya Corbitt answers the questions “Why do Catholics believe \_\_\_\_\_?” This study looks at the Old Testament and how the New Testament fulfills the prophesy and how the Catholic Churches teachings are based on the total Word of God.
- **Wednesday Evening Women’s Bible Study from 7:00 – 8:30pm.**  
“Beatitudes: Kingdom of Happiness” - Much more than nice sayings, the Beatitudes are the path to happiness charted by Christ himself. This study inspires in us not only a renewed resolve, but also provides heroic and powerful real-life examples, to live them out in our everyday lives.
- **Saturday Morning Men’s Scripture reflection from 7:30 – 8:30am.**  
Come share an hour with the Lord and your brothers in Christ as we prepare for Sunday’s Scripture readings by discerning how they apply to us, our lives, our problems, our needs and our hope.



## *You Are Invited to the 2018 Fall Women's Scripture Study*

- ◆ Discover a better way to happiness in a world of false promises and fleeting pleasures!
- ◆ See how others live the Beatitudes powerfully and heroically, and how you can too!
- ◆ Experience warm and caring fellowship of other women believers!

### *Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life*

**Wednesdays, 9/19 - 11/14 (skip 10/31) | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Father Kreft Hall**

\$30.00 includes study guide and streaming video access

Questions: Call Nancy Piotrowski at 248-879-1994

To register, fill out the form below (please print). Detach and mail with your payment.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Include \$30 check payable to Sacred Heart Church. Mail to: Toni Rusch, 510 Buttercup Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48307

# SACRED HEART CHURCH – SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass Rel. Ed. Registration	27 9:00 am Communion Service	28 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm K of C	29 9:00 am Mass	30 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA	31 9:00 am Mass	1 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass
2 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass	3 Labor Day 9:00 am Communion Service	4 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm K of C	5 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm SYDP Meeting	6 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA	7 9:00 am Mass	8 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass Rel. Ed. Registration
9 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 10:00 Interspersory Prayer 11:00 am Mass Rel. Ed. Registration	10 9:00 am Communion Service	11 9:00 am Mass	12 9:00 am Mass	13 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA	14 9:00 am Mass	15 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass
16 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass Adult Rel. Ed. Sign-up	17 10:00 am Communion Service at Bhd Health Center	18 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm K of C 8:00 pm Catechist Formation	19 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm SYDP Meeting 7:00 pm Tenderhearts Bible Study	20 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA 12 noon Senior Moments	21 9:00 am Mass	22 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass
23 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass	24 9:00 am Communion Service	25 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm K of C	26 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm Tenderhearts Bible Study	27 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA	28 9:00 am Mass	29 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass
30 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 am Mass 9:00 am Rel Ed. Opening Mass & Breakfast 11:00 am Mass 3:00 pm K of C Rosary	1 6:00 pm Rel. Ed	2 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm K of C	3 9:00 am Mass 7:00 pm Tenderhearts Bible Study	4 9:00 am Mass 12 noon AA	5 9:00 am Mass	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Group 8:00 am AA 4:00 pm Mass

## Liturgy Schedule

### August 25 – 26, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Lead E.M.	Lectors	Greeters
<b>Saturday, 4:00 pm Mass</b>	JoAnn Eaton	Jerry Lingeman JoAnn Eaton	Cecile & Bill Brown
<b>Sunday, 9:00 am Mass</b>	Joe Veryser	Joe Veryser Randy Shetterley	Jane & Mike Maslyn
<b>Sunday 11:00 am Mass</b>	Randy Hopkins	Toni Rusch Doug Rusch	Sarah & Mike Zelinski Nancy Piotrowski

### September 1 – 2, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Lead E.M.	Lectors	Greeters
<b>Saturday, 4:00 pm Mass</b>	Dottie Weir	Peg Fitzpatrick Lisa Landry	Cecile & Bill Brown
<b>Sunday, 9:00 am Mass</b>	Jane & Mike Maslyn	Gena Galicia Sean Sylvester	Bernie Delano
<b>Sunday 11:00 am Mass</b>	Karen & Joe Ziembo	Kathy Seever Randy Seever	Cheryl & John Formell Karen Ziembo



## PRAY FOR . . .

*Names will be published for 3 weeks.  
If a name has been removed that you wish  
to have re-established, please call the  
Parish Office at 248-852-4170*

Gil Baker  
Margaret O'Donnell  
Jackson Hensley  
Tanya Divozzo  
Joan Desmond  
Betty Andress  
Mitchell Wojtacha  
Mike Vito  
Carolyn Kochajda  
Zack Beacom  
Katie Juricic  
Arlene Joselyn  
Paul Rybicki  
Jim Reardon

Kate Goedde  
Julie Rodibaugh  
Margaret Goldsmith  
Tommie Miller  
Brian Farrell  
Velma Human  
Ed Lentz  
Andy Serocki  
Michelle Schieble  
Christine Agosta  
Lorraine Caradonna  
Luke Niehof  
Sue Beyer  
Ryan Nantais

Robert Grau  
Steve Botson  
Eugene Idziak  
Barbara Xenakis  
Mike Wendells  
Patrick Elwell  
David Cole  
Don Meyer  
Brenda Pavlik  
Bill Netter  
Roger Byrd  
Ron McCain  
Walt Bromley

## Scripture Readings for the Week



### Sunday, August 26:

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3,  
16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph  
5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

### Monday, August 27:

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3,  
4-5 [3]/Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday, August 28:

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12,  
13 [13b]/Mt 23:23-26

### Wednesday, August 29:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5  
[1]/Mk 6:17-29

### Thursday, August 30:

1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/Mt  
24:42-51

### Friday, August 31:

1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/  
Mt 25:1-13

### Saturday, September 1 :

1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19,  
20-21 [12]/Mt 25:14-30

### Sunday, September 2:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/  
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8,  
14-15, 21-23

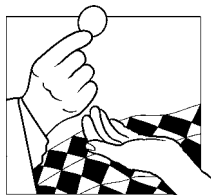


**Our Gift to God the Weekend of  
August 19, 2018**

Number of envelopes:	105
Number of envelopes sent out:	400
Percent envelopes not used:	73%
Total Offertory:	\$6470

## Eucharistic Schedule for the Infirm

August 26 – Team B  
September 2 – Team C



# Mass Intentions

Rosary said one-half hour before daily Mass

## Saturday, August 25, 2018

4:00 p.m.

- † Ron Cinader
- † Joann Marshall

## Sunday, August 26, 2018

9:00 a.m.

- † Bruce Keyes
- 11:00 a.m.
- † Nancy Ann Voss
- † Tim Tomasko
- † Julie Koppin

## Monday, August 27, 2018

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Joan Desomond

## Tuesday, August 28, 2018

9:00 a.m.

- † Julie Koppin

## Wednesday, August 29, 2018

9:00 a.m.

- † Mary Monica Flood

## Thursday, August 30, 2018

9:00 a.m.

- † Bernice Barduca

## Friday, August 31, 2018

9:00 a.m.

- † John Weir
- † Dolores Smalarz

## Sacred Heart Parish

### SACRED HEART OFFICE

3400 S. Adams, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

248-852-4170 | FAX: 248-852-5745 | www.esacredheart.org

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wed, Sat & Sun: Closed

- Pastor:** Rev. Fr. Richard Cavellier x22
- Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education:** Michael Merlo x12
- Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Jack Parent
- Office Assistant:** Carol Bissa x10
- Music Minister:** John Welch

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### COMMISSIONS

##### Christian Service Member

Sandy Stacer 248-852-2119

##### Education Member

JoAnn Eaton 248-361-2854

##### Finance Member

Ron Iwaszkiewicz 248-852-1303

##### Worship Member

JoAnn Eaton 248-361-2854

##### Member at Large

Mary Alice Merlo 248-375-5378

##### Vicariate Council Reps

Cecile Brown 248-852-3340

Linda Botson 248-852-0417

#### Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 8659

www.kofc8659.com

Dan Heath (GK) 248-343-9622

Sam Crowl (MD) 248-980-4636 | samcrowl@comcast.net

### MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m.

Monday Communion Service

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

#### BAPTISMS

Please call the Parish Office for arrangements, Call 3 to 6 months before birth of child.

#### RCIA

RCIA program for adult entrance into the Church begins each fall. Please call the Parish Office for information.

#### MARRIAGES

Arrangements to be made with priest. Call at least 6 months to a year prior to wedding.

#### EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL

Come and pray anytime.

#### NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION

Please stop by or call the Parish Office

#### BULLETIN

Deadline: Articles are due by Friday (10 days before) at 5:00 p.m.

Bulletin Editor Email:

bulletin@esacredheart.org

### Parish Mission Statement

*Sacred Heart parish is a living and giving Roman Catholic community.*

*We welcome people from all walks of life as we celebrate God's presence in the Eucharist and we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving all, teaching boldly and rejoicing always.*

### OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE SERVICE

Sergeant Daniel Pendell  
 Joseph Destefano, serving in Iraq  
 Major Kurt Ruedisueli, U.S. Army  
 Patrick Carraher  
 Staff Sergeant Arbor Laclave,  
 serving in the Middle East  
 CPL Cory Short

Officer Ryan Gielegem, Navy,  
 USS Dallas, Deployed  
 Staff Sergeant Timothy James Lowe  
 Sergeant Joel Bock, National Guard  
 Major Daniel Droste  
 Kaitlyn Tullock, U.S. Marines  
 James Buster, Active Duty



God is  
 always trying  
 to give good  
 things to us,  
 but our hands  
 are too full to  
 receive them.

-ST. AUGUSTINE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis on Monday, August 20 issued a frank, forceful and forward-looking letter confronting the crimes and sins of the sexual abuse of minors in the Church. It should be read by everyone – survivors, church leaders, and the faithful here in the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond.

As the Successor of St. Peter, our Holy Father provides us with a clearly stated, evocative “call to action.”

*“Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. 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.”*

Pope Francis’ letter renews our pledge to confront this evil, and to do so with all the resources at our disposal – especially the grace of God and the light of the Gospel.

### **Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of God**

*“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. 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. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.*

#### **1. If one member suffers...**

*In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary’s song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (Lk 1:51-53). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.*

*With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: “How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ’s betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: Kyrie eleison – Lord, save us! (cf. Mt 8:25)” (Ninth Station).*

#### **2. ... all suffer together with it**

*The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history. And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and above all the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 228). Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. The latter is “a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for ‘even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light’ (2 Cor 11:14)” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 165). Saint Paul’s exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9).*

(Continued)

*I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future. Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. For as Saint John Paul II liked to say: "If we have truly started out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he wished to be identified" (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 49). To 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. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord's command.<sup>1</sup> 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.*

*It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God's People. Indeed, whenever we have tried to replace, or silence, or ignore, or reduce the People of God to small elites, we end up creating communities, projects, theological approaches, spiritualities and structures without roots, without memory, without faces, without bodies and ultimately, without lives.<sup>2</sup> This is clearly seen in a peculiar way of understanding the Church's authority, one common in many communities where sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience have occurred. Such is the case with clericalism, an approach that "not only nullifies the character of Christians, but also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people".<sup>3</sup> Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say "no" to abuse is to say an emphatic "no" to all forms of clericalism.*

*It is always helpful to remember that "in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people" (Gaudete et Exsultate, 6). Consequently, 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. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within. Without the active participation of all the Church's members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion. In this way, we will come up with actions that can generate resources attuned to the Gospel. For "whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world" (Evangelii Gaudium, 11).*

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

*Likewise, penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils. May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled. A fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combatting all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience.*

*In this way, we can show clearly our calling to be "a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race" (Lumen Gentium, 1).*

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it"; said Saint Paul. By an attitude of prayer and penance, we will become attuned as individuals and as a community to this exhortation, so that we may grow in the gift of compassion, in justice, prevention and reparation. Mary chose to stand at the foot of her Son's cross. She did so unhesitatingly, standing firmly by Jesus' side. In this way, she reveals the way she lived her entire life. When we experience the desolation caused by these ecclesial wounds, we will do well, with Mary, "to insist more upon prayer"; seeking to grow all the more in love and fidelity to the Church (SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Spiritual Exercises, 319). She, the first of the disciples, teaches all of us as disciples how we are to halt before the sufferings of the innocent, without excuses or cowardice. To look to Mary is to discover the model of a true follower of Christ.*

*May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace of conversion and the interior anointing needed to express before these crimes of abuse our compunction and our resolve courageously to combat them.*

*Vatican City, 20 August 2018*

*FRANCIS*