



**Statement to the Clergy, Consecrated and Lay of the Diocese
From the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain
Bishop of Sioux Falls**

August 29, 2018

Memorial Feast of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

RESPONSE TO REVELATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS BY CLERGY

The current tragedy in the Church resulting from renewed allegations of child sexual abuse in Pennsylvania and around the world over many decades coupled with the allegations of the former papal representative to the Church in America and ambassador to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Viganò, suggesting a cover-up at the highest levels of the Church concerning former-Cardinal Theodore Mc-Carrick are shocking, demoralizing, and, rightly, shake the faith of the faithful. Most importantly, we are reminded through these revelations that harm, true burdens and the lingering reality of abuse, have been borne by our brothers and sisters in Christ for many years. Our hearts long to help all who carry wounds caused by abuse.

While I have no personal knowledge of any of these matters, I fully associate myself with the recommendations of Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, outlined in his statement issued on August 27, 2018. Specifically, I echo the Cardinal's request that Pope Francis authorize an apostolic visitation by independent lay leaders who have been fully empowered to investigate these allegations and to recommend procedures to assure greater accountability of bishops.

In response to these challenging times, we in the Diocese of Sioux Falls can pray and seek to atone in our own ways to the harm done and the lingering hurt of those who have experienced the horror of child sexual abuse wherever it occurred.

Therefore, I am asking all Catholics, but especially priests, deacons and all who minister in the name of Church, to pray daily if possible but especially every Thursday, the day Our Lord instituted the Priesthood and the Holy Eucharist, the attached Prayer for Healing of Victims of Abuse and the Prayer for Reparation of Priests. I also encourage those who are able to fast on Thursdays according to the norms of the Church and to spend time in adoration as well.

In addition, I once again announce my intention to pray a Mass of Healing for Victims and Reparation for all children who have been harmed in this evil way and to reassure them of Our Lord's love for them and Our Lady's care for them on Saturday, September 15, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Mass will begin at 9 a.m. in our Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them¹." our Lord cautioned, an admonition we must take to heart. For, as St. Paul reminds us, we belong to Christ.²

As I noted in my previous statement: “The evil one is real, taunting and challenging us. Jesus crucified and risen is also real. He instituted the Church and governs her still. We take solace in His promise that the gates of hell will not prevail against her, as hard as that seems in times like these to believe. I do believe. That is the Church I professed faith in so many years ago and reaffirm today.

“May Christ, the Divine Physician, heal those who have been harmed, and may Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for those entrusted to the care of her Son’s children that we may live up to our high calling.”

1- Matthew 19:14
2- 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

CHAPLET OF REPARATION FOR PRIESTS

(To be prayed on the rosary)

Incline (+) unto my aid, O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end.

(On each of the Our Father beads)

Eternal Father, I offer Thee

The Precious Blood of Thy Beloved Son,

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb without blemish or spot,

in reparation for my sins

and for the sins of all Thy priests.

(On each of the Hail Mary beads):

By thy Precious Blood, O Jesus,

Purify and sanctify thy priests.

(In place of the Glory be to the Father):

O Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named,

Have mercy on all thy priests, and wash them in the Blood of the Lamb.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.



Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.



Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.



Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

UNA ORACIÓN DE SANACIÓN VÍCTIMAS DE ABUSO

Dios del amor infinito,
Siempre presente, siempre justo;
Tú nos cuidas y nos proteges
Y nos diste a tu único Hijo
Para salvarnos con su sangre en la cruz.



Jesús manso, pastor de la paz,
Dígnate unir a tu propio sufrimiento
El dolor de todos los que han sido heridos
De cuerpo, mente y espíritu
Por parte de aquellos que traicionaron la confianza puesta en ellos.

Escucha el clamor de nuestros hermanos y hermanas
Que han sido lastimados gravemente,
Así como el clamor de aquellos que los aman.
Dales la esperanza que mitigue el desosiego de
sus corazones,
Dales la fe que calme sus espíritus perturbados.
Concédeles justicia para su causa,
Ilumínalos con tu verdad.



Espíritu Santo, consolador de corazones,
Cura las heridas de tus hijos e hijas
Y devuelve la integridad a lo que ha sido quebrantado.
Concédenos el valor y la sabiduría,
La humildad y la gracia, para actuar con justicia.
Sopla tu sabiduría en nuestras oraciones y empeños.
Que todos los que han sido heridos por el abuso
encuentren paz y justicia.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.