



~ SAINT URSULA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ~

---

August 15, 2018

My dear friends,

I write to you this week regarding the recent news about the Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing seven decades of sexual abuse and its cover-up in the dioceses of Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton. Once again, my heart is broken and I am sickened and angered by what those in positions of authority in the Church have done to the most vulnerable.

This is yet another sad moment for our Church. To be honest, I do not know what to say. As a Catholic like yourselves, I am sickened, sad, and angry at the abuse of children. I am disillusioned by the way some bishops, including the late Cardinal Keeler when he was in Harrisburg, sought to cover things up. But, as a pastor — entrusted with the care of God's people — I, like many others, are called to help bring about healing in some way.

In the wake of a scandal such as this, there will be those who will turn and walk away from their faith. There will be those who will fight in anger. There will be those who will turn on the clergy and the religious, something I sadly know all too well.

We should not fool ourselves. Without a doubt, the sexual abuses which took place are evil. Evil does exist. At times, good people make evil choices. What we need to do now is not to lose Faith. To turn from our Faith is exactly what the devil wants. Now is the time for us to turn to our Faith. Now is the time for us to turn to the Sacraments and to prayer. Now is the time to come to the Eucharist. Our Faith is founded upon Jesus Christ and His Real Presence in the Eucharist, not in those who may disappoint.

There is much more that can be said, and will be said. But for now — please know that I, and many others within the Church, feel the same pain and anger as you are feeling. All of us want things to be right, and together we can try to see God in the midst of this chaos. For now, let us pray for the healing of victims and their families. Let us pray for each other that we may do what is right.

God bless,