



A Message from Fr Sy to all Parishioners Regarding the Scandal

September 2018

I ask for a few minutes of your time to say to you "I am sorry". I am very sorry for the sadness and the hurt and the indignation you must have because of the priests who have committed unspeakable crimes against the most vulnerable members of our family. We know that God will judge those men justly as He will all of us. In these days your friends and neighbors and co-workers, and even some of your own family members, will use this scandal to criticize the Church, to criticize you for being members of the Church, and put you in painful and embarrassing situations. For that, I am very sorry. You know that as a priest for 28 years now, I love the Catholic faith very much, and I love the priesthood so much. And we know that the more we love, the more we hurt. So I too am hurt very deeply by this evil.

And yet we are a family in Christ. And in critical times, family members share the sorrows and the pains. We will bear this together as a family with even more faith, because we are convinced that God has conquered all evil in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We will bear this together as a family with even more hope, because as the evil is brought to light, God will purify His Church, the Body of Christ. We will bear this together as a family with even more love, love for those who have been so deeply injured, love for one another, as a people needing the healing and saving grace from God.

I know that some will leave the Church because of this scandal, but you are still here. You inspire me and strengthen me so much. I thank you. Because of you, I can stand before God as the head of our spiritual family here at St. Martin de Porres and say: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

Please be aware that as this crisis takes its course, we will plan to pray a novena leading up to a Mass where we all can pray for the healing of the victims and their families and the purification of the Church. May God bless and protect us all from evil.

Thank you,

Fr. Sy Nguyen
Pastor