

PROTECTION OF MINORS

... Continued

Statement Prior to Meeting on Protection of Minors

Our Hopes for this Meeting

Our hope for this meeting is that the Holy Spirit will work powerfully during these three days. A three-day meeting is a short time. However, we believe that with the winds of change blowing through our Church and with goodwill on all sides, important processes and structures of accountability can be started and the ones already in place can be supported. New steps forward can be imagined and decisions can be made so that implementation can follow speedily and universally with proper respect for different cultures. The abuse of children is wrong anywhere and anytime: this point is not negotiable.

The Holy Father

The leadership of the Holy Father is key. He has shown the way in so many of these areas; he has acknowledged the pain and guilt; he has met with survivors; he has acknowledged his own mistakes and his need to learn from these survivors. We join with him in his mission to humbly acknowledge and confess the wrongs that have been done; to reach out to survivors; to learn from them how to accompany those who have been abused and how they wish us to hear their stories. For our own part we commit to do our best to listen better to survivors, humbly acknowledging that that has not always been the case. We will implement what is decided at this meeting in terms of the accountability required of those in authority.

A Culture of Safeguarding

We need a different culture in the Church and in our wider society. We need a culture where children are treasured and where safeguarding is promoted.

- **Education and Health Care:** Through the schools and the hospitals which many of us run, we can make a difference. Those institutions now have a heightened awareness of the issue of abuse and better protocols and higher standards of protection are in place. Children in these places are more secure than ever before. Sometimes, although admittedly not in all cases, our practices can be a model for others.

- **Formation:** we will integrate the protection of minors and vulnerable adults into our formation programs, ensuring that, at every stage, appropriate instruction and education is given to both formators and those in formation. Cultural assumptions must be challenged. As said earlier, it must be clear that whatever the culture and background, the abuse of children is never permitted or tolerable.

- **Spirituality:** We will ask our Spirituality Centres to develop special outreach to any survivor who wishes to find help in their struggles with faith and meaning. Finding Jesus in a personal way is something that can heal us all. But we understand, too, that those who have been abused by priests or religious may want to stay far distant from the Church and from those who represent the Church. We do know that there are some survivors who want to make this journey of healing and we will try humbly to journey with them. A spirituality that emphasizes personal growth and healing is for many survivors a special gift and grace. Traditional ways of speaking of sin need particular attention. Those who have been abused often carry a sense of guilt, shame and even sin. In reality, however, they are the ones who have been sinned against. These and other steps are ways in which our work as religious can help the efforts of the Church.

Conversion

Pope Francis rightly attacks the culture of clericalism which has hindered our fight against abuse and indeed is one of the root causes. In addition, the strong sense of family in our Orders and Congregations – something usually so positive - can make it harder to condemn and expose abuse. It resulted in a misplaced loyalty, errors in judgment, slowness to act, denial and at times, cover-up. We still need conversion and we want to change. We want to act with humility. We want to see our blind spots. We want to name any abuse of power. We commit to engage in a journey with those we serve, moving forward with transparency and trust, honesty and sincere repentance.

Resources

Resources are always an issue. A glance at societies that have put child protection practices in place shows that even government health services struggle with providing adequate resources. We need to collaborate with each other in this area so that resources are used effectively and efficiently. The UISG and USG will work to ensure that Congregations cooperate so that we reach out in the most effective way to survivors in their journey of healing. Formation and ongoing formation can perhaps be the best areas where we can work together. The screening of candidates who join religious life is also something we can collaborate on, identifying best practices. This screening should be compulsory and of the highest quality.

A plea for the Involvement of Parents and of Women

We ask the help of parents in our fight against abuse. They have a natural instinct for the protection of children that is indispensable. Their advice, their support, their expertise and their challenge to us will be particularly welcome. In particular we underline the role of mothers. It is fair to say that if women had been asked for their advice and assistance in the evaluation of cases, stronger, faster and more effective action would have been taken. Our ways of handling allegations would have been different, and victims and their families would have been spared a great deal of suffering.

A Message to Survivors

Lastly, but most importantly, we want to send a message directly to survivors and their families. We acknowledge that there was an inadequate attempt to deal with this issue and a shameful lack of capacity to understand your pain. We offer our sincerest apologies and our sorrow. We ask you to believe in our goodwill and in our sincerity. We invite you to work with us to put in place new structures to ensure that the risks are minimized. This meeting will focus on the Protection of Minors. However, recent media attention has also focused on the abuse and exploitation of religious sisters, seminarians and candidates in formation houses. This is a matter of grave and shocking concern. We pledge ourselves to do all in our power to find an effective response. We want to ensure that those who generously apply to join religious orders or who are trained in seminaries live in places of safety where their vocation is nourished and where their desire to love God and others is helped to grow to maturity. As the meeting on safeguarding starts, we ask pardon of all for our failures and repeat that we stand with the Holy Father. We commit our efforts to working with him so that the Church can move forward in a coherent, credible and unified way, a way that is genuinely healing, truly renewed, with new eyes to see and new ears to hear.



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MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Children's Mass: 9am 1st
Sunday of the month Oct-June
Children's Liturgy: 11am
All Sundays except the 1st
Sunday from Sept- June
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

Babu Mathew, CSsR

Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, CSsR

In Residence

William Comerford, CSsR

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Theresa Barao

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

Jr. Kindergarten Director

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

February 24, 2019

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Superior General's Letter to All Pastors of Redemptorist Parishes

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Rome! I am sending the full statement of the Superior Generals to each of you so that you can circulate it as widely as possible. This statement comes from the Executive Councils of the Union of male Superior Generals and the Union of female Superior Generals. This is an extraordinary statement in itself that we are issuing together.

We will all be participating in the Meeting with the Presidents of the Bishops Conferences and the Holy Father for the next four days. The Meeting will finish on Sunday with the Eucharist.

Pope Francis has asked that all Catholics, and all people of good will, pray for this meeting this week. I ask that we do the same. Please make this request of all our confreres and their people - and especially on the weekend in all of our Churches and Shrines.

Thank you for your support and for your prayers! I am counting on them.

In Christ our Redeemer,
Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.

Statement Prior to Meeting on the Protection of Minors

“The abuse of children is wrong anywhere and anytime: this point is not negotiable”

As the meeting on safeguarding and protection of minors begins, we, the Major Superiors of Religious Orders and Congregations around the world, unite in support of this initiative of Pope Francis. In our work as religious, we come across many situations where children are abused, neglected, maltreated and unwanted. We see child soldiers; the trafficking of minors; the sexual abuse of minors; the physical and emotional abuse of minors. They cry out to us. As adults, as Christians and as religious we want to work so that their lives are changed and that the situations in which they are brought up are improved.

The common theme across all of these issues is vulnerability. Children are the most vulnerable in our societies. Children who are poor, who are disabled or destitute, or who are on the margins, who belong to lower social classes or castes may have a particular vulnerability. They are considered dispensable, to be used and abused.

Sexual Abuse in the Church

This particular meeting focuses on the sexual abuse of children and the abuse of power and conscience by those in authority in the Church, especially bishops, priests and religious. It is a story stretching back for decades, a narrative of immense pain for those who have suffered this abuse.

We bow our heads in shame at the realization that such abuse has taken place in our Congregations and Orders, and in our Church. We have learned that those who abuse deliberately hide their actions and are manipulative. By definition, it is difficult to uncover this abuse. Our shame is increased by our own lack of realization of what has been happening. We acknowledge that when we look at Provinces and Regions in our Orders and Congregations across the world, that the response of those in authority has not been what it should have been. They failed to see warning signs or failed to take them seriously.

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The Lord is merciful and gracious. – Psalm 103

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Feb 16 & 17: \$5,181.01. Catholic Press & BC Catholic: \$80.00. Offering for the Needy: \$202.00. Initial Offering \$20.00. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Ash Wednesday Masses: Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent falls on March 6. Mass and distribution of ashes will be held at 8am, 9am with OLPH School students and 7pm.

Food Bank Collection: This weekend's Food Bank Collection will go to Aunt Leah's Place which supports children in foster care. Thank you for your support!

Family Mass Helpers: The next Family Mass is on Sunday March 3. If you would like to volunteer to help with this Mass, please email Agata at kroondyk@aquinas.org or Heather (hleachsage@gmail.com) for coffee/food and hospitality, or Melina (melinaivanovic@gmail.com) for choir.

Ushers Gathering & Invitation to Become An Usher: The Ushers will be gathering on Tuesday Feb 26 at 7pm in the Church. If you're a friendly outgoing sort of person, please consider joining this ministry. It is a wonderful way to serve the parish. Please fill out the sign-up sheet at the church entrance. Applicants should be at least 16 years old.

Choir Members for 11am and 5pm Mass: The OLPH choir is seeking new members: we especially need singers who can commit to the Sunday 11am mass and Monday evening rehearsals (7-8pm). Please contact Music Director Catherine Walsh for more information: catherine.organist@gmail.com. If you are interested in helping out at the Sunday 5pm Youth Mass, please contact Theresa Barao: olphyouthmin@gmail.com.

40 days for Life Campaign: Join us for the annual 40 days for Life Campaign and pray for an end to abortion. Campaign begins Wednesday, March 6. Location: In front of the priests' residences, 4885 St. John Paul II Way, Vancouver. For more info contact Alba Stevenson, Campaign Coordinator at 604-299-4123.

God's Love Heals Our Memories: A Lenten Day of Reflection: Seek God's healing for the wounds of your past through a contemplation to obtain God's love. Saturday, March 9, from 10-4:30 p.m. (with anticipated Mass) at Christ the Redeemer Church, West Vancouver. Cost \$20 (includes lunch). To register visit rcav.org/courage. Sponsored by the Courage and Encourage Ministries.

Who Am I: Through an experience of self-discovery and development explore the essential aspects of yourself. Join us on Feb. 23, 24, and March 2, 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Saint John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. "Who Am I?" is a PRH workshop supporting Human Formation and is endorsed by the Ministries and Outreach Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver for parish leadership development. To register or for more info contact Jane Waldock at jane.k.waldock@gmail.com

No GST Offer at Gardens of Gethsemani: Set aside your sacred burial space. No GST offer on traditional in-ground burial plots only. Limited time offer available until Feb. 28, 2019. Book an appointment with our Family Service Advisors at 604-531-2141. Cannot be combined with other offers. Promotion offered by Catholic Cemeteries.

Restore the Beauty: Women's Conference: This conference is for every woman desiring to experience restoration in her life, the lives of those around her, the Church and the world. This two day event includes inspiring talks, prayerful moments of encounter with God and Mass with Archbishop Michael Miller. Throughout the weekend you'll experience hope and encouragement, while gaining practical tools to help you restore the beauty in your world, no matter your circumstances. We are excited for our amazing speaking team: Sister Miriam James, Fr. Josh Johnson, Michelle Benzinger, and Heather Khym. Event will be May 3 & May 4. Location: Mary Pattison Chapel located on the Pacific Academy Campus in Surrey, BC just off Hwy 1. Registration opens Feb. 25. www.liferestoration.ca/womensconference

Wanted: Used Car for Redemptoris Mater: The Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary Redemptoris Mater is in need of a used car. If you know of someone who would be willing to donate a used car, please have them contact Fr. Gilbert Nunez at gnunez@rcav.org or call the seminary at 604-709-8509.

Stewardship Reflection

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back." (Luke 6:35)

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

MARCH

Lenten Study



March 8

On Fridays of Lent after the Stations of the Cross, we will be screening Bishop Robert Barron's *Conversion: Following the Call of Christ*. Stations of the Cross start at 7pm. The 20 min video screening will follow soon after.

Lenten Mission

March 11-14

Father Lucien Larre is our Lenten Retreat guest speaker this year. Fr Larre has many roles in his life. Besides being a priest he also worked in psychology and education focusing on helping children. The underlying theme for his work is how to be missionaries of love. He spreads this message in missions, retreats and talks to parishes all over the world.

Sat evening Sun. Masses: March 9/10
Introductory Mission Sermon
The Most Important Decision in Life

Mon. March 11
Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission Talk: 7 pm.
Clinging to Faith in a Godless Society

Tues. March 12
Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission Talk: 7 pm.
Maintaining Hope in Hopeless Situations

Wed. March 13
Rosary 6pm, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission Talk: 7 pm.
(First Class relic of St John Bosco, saint for children and adolescents will be available for veneration.)
Building a Loving Home in a Selfish Society

Thurs. March 14
Rosary 6pm, Mass: 6:30 pm, Mission Talk: 7 pm.
(First Class relic of St Maria Goretti, will be available for veneration.)
Bringing Love to a Violent, Hateful Society



This week's Food Bank Appeal: Aunt Leah's Place

For 30 years, Aunt Leah's Place has been helping kids in foster care and young mothers achieve a better future by providing guidance, supported housing, job training and coaching on essential life skills. We believe every individual deserves to feel safe, cared for, and have a sense of belonging. Unfortunately, this is not a reality for many teens in the foster care system. When they "age out" of government care at 19, they find themselves completely alone. Aunt Leah's Place often provides the only thread of care and continuity for youth whose lives are marked by abuse, neglect, abandonment and multiple foster home placements. Over the years, we have seen how support at this critical time can help these young people realize their potential while becoming resilient, independent adults.

Aunt Leah's Place helps prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. To support them on their journey to self-sufficiency, we provide supported housing, job training, and coaching on essential life skills. Aunt Leah's has a strong foundation firmly in place, due to its social purpose real estate partnership with Central City Foundation at our main Youth Resource Hub and Head Office at 816 Twentieth Street, New Westminster, BC. Please support the Food Bank Appeal this week which will provide funds for our works. Thank you.

Archdiocese's Priorities and Goals: Are you on board?



Archbishop Miller will be visiting our parish March 14-17 to talk to coordinators, ministry members and parishioners in his report of all 77 parishes of this diocese. Ministry members and coordinators, please note the times and dates of the schedule sent to you.

Two years ago, the Archdiocese of Vancouver issued its Evangelization Mission for our diocese. The summary of it was to focus our diocese's pastoral efforts and mission to intentionally help people experience God's merciful love. Archbishop Miller has invited everyone to play a role in their implementation. "Each of you is crucial to this endeavour, by lending a hand and offering advice on how we can all work together."



Sunday is the time when we come together: at Mass, in the parish, in shared activities. Improving our shared experience of Sunday will inspire deeper faith and a greater sense of community.

- Celebrate like we mean it
- Welcome like we mean it



Our goal as Christians is to continuously grow closer to Jesus. Some of us are looking for ways to encounter Him in a personal way. Some of us are looking for deeper discipleship.

- Foster personal encounters
- Promote discipleship paths



The world makes non-stop demands. Our culture works against Christian family life. In the spirit of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*, we will invest in strengthening marriages and families. This will benefit families, parishes and the wider culture.

- Provide support for parents seeking to acquire additional parenting skills
- Connect people in need with support services that address their challenges



Parishes thrive and experience renewal when pastors are enabled to delegate spiritual and administrative leadership roles to a talented and evangelized team of parishioners.

- Parishes are called to be dynamic communities of missionary disciples.
- Every parish will be offered services in management, development and human resource functions

PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Redemptorist Pilgrimage: May 2-14

As part of our 150th Jubilee Icon of Love celebrations, the Redemptorists all over the world have organized several pilgrimages to visit the actual icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, places where St Alphonsus and St Gerard Majella lived and prayed as well as other places of interest in Italy.

The cost of the trip is \$4800. Full payment is due by Feb 27, 2019. Arrangements can be made for pre-authorized payments as well. For more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Brian or Deon royaleorchid@shaw.ca or call Brian 778-999-4599 / 778-866-8118.



12-DAY ITINERARY

Day 01: May 02 2019 - Canada to Rome / Naples

Day 02 May 03 - Arrive in Rome – Marianella – Naples

Day 03: May 04 - Pompeii – Amalfi Coast

Day 04: May 05 - Excursion to Scala

Day 05: May 06 - Sites of St.

Alphonsus and St. Gerard Majella
Day 06: May 07 - Amalfi – Montecassiano – Rome

Day 7: May 08 - Papal Audience – Holy Doors of Rome – Relics of Jerusalem

Day 8: May 09 - Rome (Vatican)

Day 9: May 10 - Assisi – Sites of St. Francis and St. Clare

DAY 10: May 11 - Pisa – Padua

DAY 11: May 12 – Venice – St. Mark's Square - Murano Glass Factory

DAY 12: May 13 – Goodbye Italy