

Good Evening/Morning

I am Cindy Reckinger, parish administrator here at St. Patrick's for those who may not know me.

I am here today to share and piggy back on Doug's appeal last weekend in regards to the settlement of the bankruptcy of the victims of clergy abuse. The leadership team that made the decision to recognize that a pledge was the right thing to do here at St. Patrick's consisted of the two Trustees, Finance Council Chair, our former Pastor, Fr. Bob and myself.

By now every family should have received a letter in the mail speaking about this issue. This letter is the same one that was in our bulletin last weekend.

I want to share my feelings and thoughts why this issue is so important and why each of us prayerfully should consider a financial contribution to the victims. These victims and their families are "our church family." I want to apologize on behalf of St. Patrick's to the victims and their families for the atrocities committed against you.

As most are aware this clergy abuse to the victims was brought public 3 years ago in our Archdiocese. There were over 450 victims that came forward and I am guessing there are more out there that didn't come forward for whatever their reason were.

The question I'm sure many of you have is, do we have victims of clergy sexual abuse that have come forward in our parish here at St. Patrick's. The answer, sadly is Yes and painfully more than one victim. Some of these victims were sexually abused multiple times. From my heart I speak that we owe these victims and their families not only all the prayers that have been offered up to them but also a financial obligation. You are absolutely correct, money will not take away the pain and emotional suffering this victims have experienced. To be able to put this ugly matter to closure we need do our part. We along with 100 and some other parishes have decided to contribute to settlement and be able to move

forward as church. This money goes directly into the TRUST for the victims, not to the lawyers or the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese did not play a part of this agreement within the parishes.

It is now time to support the victims and their families of this clergy abuse that took place. This has been heart wrenching for all of us and being a member myself here at St. Patrick's and leadership, this has been three difficult years.

I would like each of you think about this for a moment, are you possibly sitting next to one of the victims or their families that still have strong faith in the Catholic Institution and are still looking for God's forgiveness for the clergy that abused. For the many of these victims that have left the Catholic Church, maybe this will be one way for them to recognize that we truly do care as a Universal Church that we are.

Please prayerfully consider what you are able to do financially to help these victims. There will be a second collection today. If you are not ready to contribute today we will be having additional collections the next two weeks. You also received an envelope in with your letter that can be dropped off in the office during the week or mailed.

There will be a listening session with Father and myself in the Chapel after mass. If you aren't able attend today there will be listening sessions the next two weekends after masses. Also feel free to contact Fr. Brian personally and he will make the time to meet with you privately.

Thank you and please continue to pray for those victims from our parish.