

Homily: Answering the Clergy Abuse

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Sometimes it's not easy being Catholic. This is one of those times. Lately there has been a lot of bad news about horrible sins committed by some priests and even some bishops. Because of this news maybe some of us have asked ourselves, or have been asked by others, "How can we remain Catholic when there is this evil in the Church?" I have found some answers to that question and I would like to share a few with you.

We remain Catholic because we know that this evil is not just in the Catholic Church; it is found everywhere in our society. It is in the entertainment industry, education, sports, other churches, and other religions. Leaving the Church would not be leaving the sin.

We remain Catholic because we want to stay and help cleanse the Church from this sin. We love the Church and the people who are the Church, and we will not let this evil drive us away when those we love need our help. We will stay and fight.

We remain Catholic because we want to stay to support and participate in the good works that the Church does. The Church has God's sacraments and the teachings that sanctify and comfort people everywhere in the world. The Church also provides human and social services like health care, education, and charity. We will stay and do these good and holy things.

We remain Catholic because, like St. Peter, we know that we have nowhere else to go. In the Gospel of John, 6:67, Jesus asks the disciples if they too would leave him. Peter replied, "Lord, to whom can we go?" Like Peter, we know that only in the Church can we find the words of everlasting life spoken by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is here, and only here, that the Father brings us to be his Son.

And finally, we remain Catholic because we believe that the Lord God will deliver us from this evil. As it is said in Psalm 34: "The LORD has eyes for the just and ears for their cry; The LORD confronts the evildoers, to destroy them from the earth; Many are our troubles, but out of them all the LORD delivers us." And the Lord God is delivering us! When we look at when these terrible sins were committed, we see that in the past fifteen years or so the number has gone down a lot. The Lord *is* delivering us from this evil! That is good news.