

From the Desk of Fr. Ramon Owera—Regarding the Clergy Abuse Scandal

By now you have read the reports of 1,000 minors by 300 or so priests in six Pennsylvania dioceses since the 1940s.

I wish to assure of my disgust and anger at this news. As a priest, I am shocked and saddened by the behavior of those who were supposed to be trustworthy and beyond question in their ministries. The crimes committed by priests, and the cover up by their bishops have caused untold heartache and scandal that will last well into the future.

How do we move forward? First and foremost, with prayer. Pray for the victims. Pray for purification in the Church. Pray that no one is tempted to turn their back on the Faith by abandoning the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, but instead keep the faith, always demanding accountability from our leaders, punishment if deemed necessary and true renewal for the future. Spend some time on Tuesday evenings at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and ask our lord for true healing.

Pope Francis and Catholic Bishops are expected to announce a credible process that will allow for more transparency and accountability in the selection process of Bishops and other hierarchy. It cannot come too soon. The laity, priests, bishops and the pontiff—we must all be held to the same high standards when it comes to working with children and young adults.

I wish to echo Bishop Campbell's request, that if you yourself have been abused or know someone who has been, please contact your local law enforcement immediately and contact the Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator at 866-448-0217, or helpisavailable@colubuscatholic.org.

Blessings,
Fr. Ramon