

From Fr. Jim . . .

The following is a letter from Archbishop Schnurr, the Archbishop of Cincinnati. The mentioned press release is not included here.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the last several months, many of us have been outraged and horrified by revelations of sexual abuse and cover-ups of such abuse perpetrated by some bishops in our country. This past week, I, along with the other bishops of our nation, gathered in Baltimore for the spring general assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The very important work of debating and voting on measures to eradicate the grave evil of sexual abuse from our Church, which we had planned to accomplish last fall at the plenary assembly, was finally able to be addressed. With the release of Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Vos estis lux mundi* in May, we were ready at this assembly to take concrete steps forward and implement important procedures for accountability throughout the hierarchy of the Church in the United States.

At this most recent meeting, the bishops of our country approved three documents related to reporting and investigating claims of abuse or the intentional mishandling of such cases by bishops. These newly approved directives establish the following:

- Protocols to deal with bishops who were removed from office or resigned their office for reasons of sexual abuse or intentional mishandling of cases.
- Reaffirmation of the commitment bishops make to live according to the Gospel and to place themselves under the same high standards applied to their priests, deacons and lay personnel.
- Direction for dealing specifically with reporting and investigating complaints against bishops.

The bishops also approved the creation of a third-party reporting system designed to receive confidentially reports of sexual abuse or the intentional mishandling of abuse cases committed by bishops. The independence of such a system is meant to help prevent any member of the hierarchy from interfering in the investigation of alleged misconduct. Please see the attached press release from the USCCB for more information regarding this third-party reporting system. Currently in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we have a reporting system already in place to handle abuse and misconduct allegations of all types, EthicsPoint. To make a report call, 1-888-389-0381.

These steps implemented by the USCCB are important in our response to the sin and crime of sexual abuse, but they are not the end. Until the scourge of sexual abuse is completely eradicated from the life from the life of the Church, we will still have work to do. As members of the Church, we are all called to lives of holiness and meant to become saints in God's Kingdom. There is absolutely no place in the Church for toleration of any mind of sexual abuse, especially committed against people who are particularly vulnerable for reasons of age, ability, or status. As your bishop, I promise to continue to do everything in my power to ensure a safe environment for all people — children and adults involved with any of our various ministries.

I ask you to join me in praying for all the victims of sexual abuse and for a renewed commitment on the part of all of us to follow Christ more closely, so that the Church may once again shine out as a light to the nations by the witness of her holiness.

Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for June Sunrise Treatment Center

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, July 11: immediately following 7:00pm mass until 9:00pm.

Youth Program
Wednesday, July 3, Zoo Field Trip, \$5.00 per child
Wednesday, July 10, 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday, July 12, Winton Woods Kids Outdoor Expo 10:00-2:00pm
Sunday, July 14, 1st Communion Meeting, after Mass
Monday, July 15, Summer Day-pottery painting 10:00-2:00pm
Friday, July 19, 1st Communion Class, 10:00-2:00pm

You Are Invited to Join Us for St. Leo's

Culture Fest
Saturday, July 6, 2019
1:00 - 9:30 pm
6:00 pm Mass
Featuring Music, Munchies, Merriment, and Much More!
Music Provided By Musicians from St. Leo and others.
Featuring a variety of Guatemalan, Mexican and Salvadorian cuisines.

Parking available at Leap Academy, 2001 Baltimore Avenue.
33rd Annual Bible Institute, Friday July 26 – Friday, August 2 at Xavier University Campus. It is a one of a kind conference that offers to make you a powerful disciple of Christ. Web registration is available at www.presentationministries.com and click on the tab 'Bible Institute' or call at 513-922-0923. Deadline for meals and lodging is July 3, 2018.

Mass and Healing Service, Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm, at St. Ignatius Church, 5222 North Bend Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Healing includes the physical, emotional, psychological and relational aspects of our lives; it is not limited to a physical cure. You can receive personal individual prayer ministry for yourself or any of your loved ones. Come and experience Jesus' healing power!
Sponsored by Lighthouse Renewal Center at 513-471-5483. For more information visit our website at www.LRC1.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lrc1.org.

Pope Francis calls each of us to witness to charity and to show God's mercy to one another. He encourages us to "open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!" The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

