

NCCW RESPONSE TO THE LATEST NEWS CONCERNING THE CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE SCANDAL

As women, with a natural instinct to protect children and the young, we have again been hurt by the latest revelations concerning the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Our hearts are wounded knowing that victims have suffered scarring pain and we grieve for what they have undergone and for our beloved Church and all the good priests and bishops who suffer through this time of scandal.

We pray for healing for all involved in this vile business: the perpetrators, the innocent victims, families and friends, for those who covered up the acts, for all touched by these terrible disgusting actions.

While the latest report is new, we need to recall that revelation of this incomprehensible and reprehensible conduct first broke in the early 2000's. Since that time, our USCCB has put into place guidelines for the protection of children and youth and these guidelines have been further strengthened twice. They also established a panel of experts to advise them and much progress has been made. While even one case is too many, the actual number of cases has plummeted in recent years. Of course, these steps are never reported in newscasts that seek the sensational.

Are we all appalled that this has occurred and was not addressed properly until recent times? Absolutely. We are disgusted, some are disillusioned, and we are all disheartened. Yet, we cannot allow it to shake our faith or our gratitude for our faithful Spiritual Advisors who with their brother priests, suffer. The best thing we can do, really the only meaningful action we can take, is to pray. To that end, we have posted on our homepage on the website a request that our members pray 3 Hail Mary's and the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel daily.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us and for our Church that we reflect the light of goodness, forgiveness, and peace,

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