



Holding Our Bishops Accountable

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Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday evening, September 19, over 50 fellow parishioners gathered to discuss the impact of the allegation against Fr. Mark, the grand jury report, and the cover-up by our bishops. Here is a [link](#) to a video "Why I am Still Catholic" that we viewed at the beginning of our meeting. I invite you to continue the conversation, formally and informally. I offer my thanks to our planning team (John Grogan, Joe Nines, Sally Scanlan, Barbara Sheehan), our facilitator (Kate McCauley), those who were available to gather/share, and those who were unable to attend but supported us through prayer. This was a good first step!

This time of great challenge to our Church and our Faith, is a seminal moment in our history. We need to come together as a parish. We must reclaim our baptismal authority as the people of God, speaking out in one voice against the crimes of abusive priests, while holding our bishops accountable for their criminal cover-up. As one preacher put it "this is not the time to leave the Church, but to lead the Church."

Our journey will be long and our suffering will continue for years to come, as it has for those who have been sexually abused. Healing and change may not even occur in our lifetime, but it is through the suffering of the cross that we will one-day experience the resurrection. Any meaningful change is going to take perseverance, prayer, and patience.

Moving forward, we hope to reestablish the [OMC Sexual Abuse Forum](#) as a means of continuing the our prayer, education, sharing, and advocacy in holding our bishops accountable. Additional information will follow in the near future.

Finally, I offer my thanks to our parishioners, who in the midst of your own struggle, have reached out in support of the Oblates and our ministry at OMC. Let us continue, as we struggle together, to pray for the abused, the accusers, and the accused.

In de Sales,
Fr. Bob

FYI - The other day we received the following statement from the [US Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#)