

Your Excellency,

I am a horrified mother. Horrified by the evil abuse endured by the children at the hands of priests under the shadows of monsignors, bishops, archbishops, and cardinals. Horrified at the dehumanizing assaults made on seminarians and young priests by predatory power brokers. Horrified at decades of systematic abandonment of us all.

I am an enraged mother. My sons and daughters deserve better. If any of them are called to a religious vocation, they absolutely deserve an assault-free place to discern this call. If they are serving at the altar, they deserve to learn faithful and prayerful service in a safe sacristy.

The lay people I have spoken with about this see two problems here: pedophilia and predators of power violating their vows of celibacy. Neither will not be tolerated in our Church. Both must be rooted out today.

These dark days rip me to my core. As a faithful Catholic lay woman, as a mother, a godmother, an aunt, a sister, a daughter, I am called to add my voice to demanding accountability in the changes that must take place.

1. An investigative council put forth by the USCCB comprised of faithful lay woman, examining the Cardinal McCarrick scandal and how an openly held secret of a predatory man wielding power damaged the lives of young men and silenced their cries for justice.
2. Reporting to the police is the mandatory step for every allegation of abuse and sexual assault whether it be with a minor or adult. Every safety training program will mandate reporting to police, not to a supervisor. Too many times politics and corruption have impeded these claims from going forward.
3. A call for penance and sacrifices made by all bishops, a Mass set aside for victims of abuse, and express signs that the bishops are repentant for the sins of their fellow bishops.
4. A flagging system put in place. When an incident is reported, we advocate an approach similar to other expansive and complex organizations, a suspected individual is flagged in a national system until the completion of a thorough and transparent investigation. The investigation must involve layperson teams in the reporting process and appropriate-level outside legal proceedings. The use of a national offender/suspect registration system would also alert a new community should a party lacking integrity attempt to transfer a suspected individual to a new location

The healthy priests deserve these protective measures so that allegations can be sorted out by the proper authorities. The sick priests deserve removal from ministry for the sake of their own souls and whatever healing can take place for them away from any flock. The people of God deserve the truth and justice for our wounded brothers and sisters.

Please add your voice. Please speak truth and repentance and changes.

God bless you.