

## Where Do We Go From Here?

### St. Vincent de Paul Survey Results, September, 2018

**Method:**

- The survey asked each respondent to rank their top three most important goals and top three most important actions.
- A “highest priority” or “three star” rating translated to three points; a “second priority” or “two star” rating translated to two points; and a “third priority” or “one star” rating translated to one point.

**Completion:**

- A total of 141 completed surveys were returned (97 paper and 44 electronic).
- There were 18 respondents who did not follow the instructions and whose surveys therefore required some interpretation. (*E.g.*, for one respondent who checked off three boxes for “goals” and three for “actions” without prioritizing them, each selection was assigned a “two star” rating.)
- Only one survey was completely unscorable (virtually every box was checked off, with no prioritization.)
- We received 4 paper surveys from respondents who indicated that they were visitors to the parish. These surveys were not included in the totals provided above, but are indicated parenthetically in the data below.

**Results:** (listed in order of popularity by total points, which is virtually identical to the order by number of respondents who chose a given item as their “highest priority”)

<b>Overarching Goals</b> for the Church as a whole		
total points*	“highest priority” votes*	
296 (299)	77 (77)	revision of power dynamics in the Church (including those between the hierarchy and the rest of the Church; between ordained and non-ordained Catholics; and those based on gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, marital status, and other identities)
207 (213)	26 (27)	increased transparency within the Church, specifically pertaining to the issues of sex abuse by priests or religious and its past concealment
153 (159)	23 (24)	support for victims of sex abuse
110 (112)	11 (11)	evolution of the Church’s theology of sexuality
56 (56)	3 (3)	revised definition of authentic pastoral leadership
23 (28)	0 (0)	education on topics of sex abuse (whether or not perpetrated by priests or religious)

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\* Parenthetical data includes responses by self-described visitors to the Parish.

Specific Actions to be undertaken by our Parish or its member		
total points *	“highest priority” votes *	
211 (217)	48 (49)	communicate our concerns to the hierarchy, including demands that dioceses provide greater transparency into reports of abuse (e.g., by advocating for a lay presence/input at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in November)
134 (136)	18 (18)	advocate that the issue be addressed through the courts: through criminal prosecution or civil litigation (including lobbying for investigation by the Maryland Attorney General)
130 (132)	18 (18)	join with other parishes in our Archdiocese as well as national organizations to take further action and advocate for change
89 (90)	16 (16)	call for the American bishops to collectively offer their resignations
82 (85)	13 (13)	investigate, review, and discuss the Archdiocese’s current policies concerning allegations of sexual misconduct
72 (75)	8 (9)	develop ways to support survivors of abuse and those feeling the emotional and spiritual effects of the revelations of abuse or its concealment
66 (67)	12 (0)	withhold contributions to the Archdiocese until acceptable actions have been taken
41 (44)	4 (4)	host one or more discussions or lectures on the root causes of sexual abuse, the psycho-spiritual impacts of abuse and/or how to enable healing for survivors of abuse
22 (22)	1 (1)	create and maintain an information repository (including hard facts on abuse and responses by the Church, thoughtful opinion pieces, and networking resources)

**Additional Comments:** (Some respondents embellished their surveys with marginal comments, which are included below.)

- “Thanks for doing this! I think this will be very helpful w/ next steps.”
- “Protect our children & parishioners (adult) from sex abuse”
- “The Standards of the priests/bishops as far as what is acceptable among them needs to Change. The concealment of abuse in unacceptable + also the acceptability of certain things amongst the clergy. Let’s help the victims heal, follow Christ, heal the Church, + show the world how awesome being Catholic is!”
- “Lead [illegible] St V to [the] Archdiocese”
- “Support Commitment to [illegible] USCCB with no Bishops [illegible] Judge Lay Catholics”
- next to “goals” section:
  - “all are very important[;] a very difficult choice”
  - “also start considering (1) women becoming priests; (2) priests being able to marry”
- marked as relating to specific suggestions:
  - increased transparency
    - “include payment for victims of sex abuse”
  - support victims
    - “pay for counseling, give them \$\$ for massages + alt. therapies, horseback riding lessons, whatever their hearts desire, spa, vacations...”
  - investigate, review, and discuss
    - “including Keough Records to the [illegible]”
  - host discussions or lectures

- “homilies and discussions on healthy sexuality and power dynamics.”
- call for bishops to resign
  - “because there needs to be accountability”
  - “if they concealed / mishandled”
- withhold contributions to the Archdiocese
  - “because \$ is power.”
  - “not opposed to this but depends on what other demand it is tied to”