

## Reflections on what has been shared by parishioners regarding sexual abuse and the clergy.

First, some general reflections:

No one expressed surprise at the revelations and more than half of respondents stated explicitly that they were **not surprised**.

Everyone wanted to see our parish take SOME ACTION.

Everyone wanted change to happen and for us to take a stand.

Everyone wants to see the laity become more involved.

Even though many people questioned their belief in the church, no one expressed the need or desire to leave St. Vincent's and most were hopeful that they would be respected and sustained here, even if those feelings were not true of the universal church.

### 1. Requests for more information and/or education:

- Periodic sessions to address abuse
- Is there a hotline for reporting abuse? What is the procedure for reporting abuse? In our parish? In the archdiocese?
- Continued need for more small group work
- Need to review all reports and objective information. Parish should make this information available
- Provide reminders via email about who to contact to express concerns and suggestions and provide information about other events related to this uprising in the church
- Provide a grief group for the abused
- Provide workshops for survivors on forgiveness
- Need more information about an oversight group looking at discipline of priests

### 2. Actions to be taken in order of volume of responses:

- Let the bishops know of our concerns, anger, and suggestions for future
- Take a stand
- Involve the laity
- Need a grassroots movement
- Hold all those accountable who have facilitated or covered up abuses, including calling for transparency, requiring written apologies, naming all abusers, calling for resignation of bishops
- Address the issues of celibacy and women priests
- Revise the way that the church deals with sexuality and incorporate healthy information in screening of future priests
- Laity should be the ones dealing with reports of sexual abuse by clergy
- Sexual abuse by clergy should be handled through the legal system, not the church. Have AG convene grand jury such as the one in PA and expand the statute of limitations
- Nourish parishioners who have been abused

- Stop supporting the archdiocese financially until they have become more transparent and have initiated these changes that have been suggested
  - Reformation 2
  - Call on pope to make a public statement and initiate change
  - Reach out to other parishes to join in actions
  - Protest at the Bishops' meeting in Baltimore in the fall, advocate for participation in meeting
  - Continue with liturgies that sustain and support the parishioners during this time
  - Stop using hierarchical language
3. Impact in order of volume
- Anger, sorrow, shock at extent of coverup
  - Loss of faith in church leadership/hierarchy
  - Sense of hopelessness that nothing will change substantially
  - Questioning of belief system
  - Feeling betrayed
  - Opening of wounds
  - Feelings of loneliness and isolation from family who questions commitment to the Catholic Faith
  - Grateful for good clergy
  - Feeling complicit for having been silent until now
  - Embarrassed for church