

**Transcript: Listening Session #1**  
**September 21, 2019, The Church of St. Patrick, Ravena**

Father Scott: Welcome everyone, welcome. [Lots of background noise.] Thank you for being here. We invite you to be seated wherever is comfortable for you. If you would like to, if you're staying, please make yourself at home. If you're not staying, we ask if you'd like to make your transition outdoors or find a place to be comfortable. We want you to know a couple of things, just as a general ---thought to begin with. Just to put a couple of parameters in. We want to be fully transparent about what's going on. We want this to be for you because if you are Catholic and you're watching the news, it is incredibly painful in many, many ways. It is also painful for another group of people. Another group of people that find it's very painful is the survivors of sexual abuse. What we're told statistically is that 30% of adults have been abused in some form. Thirty percent. So that means there are people here that are here because they've experienced abuse. There are other people that are here because they're Catholic and they're worried about their church. There are people here with lots of overlapping between those two. People who've experienced abuse of some form and have grave worries about their church. So, I will tell you what the primary goal is. My primary goal for today is to give you an opportunity to share what you're feeling. It will teach me a lot because I can only gather what the parishioners are really feeling by listening to what I hear at the doors as people leave mass or by receiving emails and I'm not getting a good sense of where people are. I do know that because we've been going through this in many different phases since 2002, we are feeling a different response perhaps each time another revelation comes out. What you felt in 2002 may be similar or different from what you felt when there were scandals in Ireland later. It may be similar or different from how you felt last summer when there was the news about the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and Cardinal McCarrick, and now that it's coming right here to our home, you may feel different yet again. At the same time, people have only so much energy and you may be feeling quite weary. Your response might be affected by your weariness in this situation. So, my main goal is to let you release some of what you're feeling and for me to learn from that and for us to learn from each other. My other goal is to find out if you have questions because I'm not going to be able to answer any questions tonight. I don't know the answers. If you were to ask me, might our diocese go bankrupt, for example, I don't know the answer to that. I don't know how close we might come to that. So --- we are going to have meticulous notes taken and those notes are going to allow us to be able to send to the diocese a list of questions. I'm guessing maybe you're going to have 10 or 20 questions tonight, maybe only five. And then at the 11:30 mass session tomorrow, we'll have more questions. We're going to take all those questions, ask the Diocesan Director of Communications to give us answers to those and then we'll put it in a bulletin insert. That way you'll get to have the official answer and everyone will get it whether they were here or not, just in case they have questions. The transcript that we are going to have, we are going to deliver it to the diocese. They did not ask for it but I know that they will appreciate it. We have someone in our parishes who has worked as a clerk and knows how to transcribe meticulously. So what we are doing to make sure that we have a good record, is we've got a couple of note takers here. We also have two phones recording what we're hearing and our goal for the recording is only to make sure that the

notes are meticulous. We will then keep a set of notes for ourselves, but also deliver these to the Diocese so they have an official record of what people are thinking. My guess is that we might have about an hour together. Maybe we'll spend a little more. We're going to stay here until people feel like they've gotten a chance to ---\_\_\_\_ or until our peace sets in and we feel like it's time to close the night and then we'll come back and set another time.

There's only one thing I'd like to say. There's nothing you could say that's out of bounds. I'm not going to defend anything. I'm not going to debate. We're not here to have some kind of debate. It would be appropriate for people to accept whatever anybody says as their feeling. At the same time, I will tell you this. We had a Pastoral Counsel meeting and talked about it, and what I learned from talking about it just in that group of 12 people in Cocksackie this week is this: Some people have opinions that are different from others and it [inaudible]. And maybe it's helpful since we're in a church and remember our unity, we just want whatever you express to honor the fact that somebody may feel differently for a very good reason that's personal and you wouldn't want your sharing to cause them to leave with more pain than they came in with. I think that's just a fair rule. So because we know that 30% of the people here have some connection to abuse that's very, very personal, an example of something that could hurt them saying, all this is about money; everyone's lying about the abuse. That would be very painful for people who've experienced abuse. On the other side, there are people here that are related to priests. There are people here that have priests in their extended family or if it's a priest who was one of the very most important people in their life. And if that's the case, they're going to feel a natural defensiveness toward people saying awful things about priests. I actually don't [inaudible]. I can understand that, but there may be somebody who doesn't feel as calm about that. They may feel very hurt about people making broad statements about priests. So those are just two examples. However you share, it would be great if you could do it with a sensitivity to know that there's probably somebody who received differently and I wouldn't want the way I share to cause them to leave with more pain than they came in with. It would be nice if all of leave exactly as we are now but having been heard. Or maybe and maybe it's is too much to hope for maybe with a burden just a little bit lighter. John Vasto is going to be walking around with a cordless mic. We do ask so that you speak into the mic so we can hear you, so the recording can hear you, so our transcript is accurate. We will not use your name. We're just going to say a parishioner said this. Female parishioner said this; a male parishioner said that. If you want your name on the record, just tell us. If you say, actually the thing I said, I'd like my name associated with it, we can add that, but we're going to omit all names unless somebody specifically asks.

All right. So, maybe what we'll do to start is just open our hearts with a little prayer and then we'll just enter into the silence and you are welcome to raise your hand and break the silence and you're going to share what you're feeling.

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Lord, how painful it is for us, your faithful disciples and members of your church to be here. We are dealing with sadness and horror, heartache, shame, humiliation, worry. We're dealing with so many emotions. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to come together to demonstrate just by our presence here that we care about your church and the

victims of childhood sexual abuse. We also ask that you give us the openness to hear one another, to receive what we need to hear and to be able to --- the questions that will really help dispel people's worry and lack of understanding about this issue. May the 30% of people here who are directly connected to abuse be soothed and know that others care about their plight. May those who love priests and are worried about the institutional church know that all of us are seeking the same goal, justice and peace. May we share with sensitivity and generosity. We ask all of this in the power of your Spirit through Christ our Lord.

Group responds: Amen.

Father Scott: The floor is yours.

Male Parishioner: I appreciate your remarks. I've been thinking about this since the Bishop's pastoral letter that he sent out about a month ago and I've been a Catholic for the better part of seven decades and I don't ever remember the church reaching out in all my years inaudible on anything other than [clears throat a few times] excuse me other than [inaudible] doing something ---. It occurred to me, that's what we have now. Really. When this broke, the first thing that the church did was try to deny it, try to hide it, try to put the wagons in a circle and preserve the institution church and shut out what I call the pew Catholics as opposed to the ---pulpit Catholics. And so that didn't really work because a lot of people are in pain and the institution in messed it up In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. this world was founded specifically to help that kind of thing [inaudible] cataclysmic, catastrophic, catastrophe in my opinion. And now, because people had to go to the state in order to get the kind of, any sort of address, any sort of acknowledging, any sort of compassion, --- that all of a sudden, oh, we're all in this together. I don't feel like the people [inaudible] with the clergy. The clergy made this mess. They weren't living up to what they were supposed to be doing and now they're gonna come and ask us to bail them out and maybe we shouldn't. This --- has been around [inaudible] 60 years [someone else coughs and covers speaker's voice] what I call the pew church. It looks like the pulpit church is putting us in grave danger [inaudible] and if you want to know what my question is, I want to know what you expect us to do about it because we didn't create this mess. We didn't want this mess. We didn't want to ignore these people. We didn't want to watch them suffer so the priests and the bishop – and I'm not saying you. You were probably a kid when all this went on. And if you have family members who are priests, they probably had nothing to do with this either. But they're what, 4%. Just like anywhere else. Those 4% should just be treated like the 4% in the rest of the population, but they got concessions because they were priests and now we're going to have to pay for it and I think that's wrong. If you want to use my name, I don't care.

Fr. Scott: Thank you for sharing that. That was the first question to come out that we want to have written down is What should an average pew Catholic do about this right now. What would the church, the institutional church suggest that pew Catholics do about this right now.

Female Parishioner: I really have a lot of mixed feelings. I remember when Bishop Hubbard was accused and he stayed on at the time and I --- to why our priest [inaudible]. This time he's Bishop emeritus. I don't know, but that's like --- question but overall I do think that Bishop Ed is really trying hard to be transparent. Even though this other stuff came out about McCarrick and all these other things, he was one of the first ones to call for a laity review board so I have a lot respect for Bishop Ed. I know people who have been abused, not by priests, but by other people. They can't [inaudible] Times Union said, they had their article a few weeks ago about how lawyers won't take cases against individuals because they can't make money out of it, so part of it is money. The other thing is I know of people that were priests that were guilty and they went on to live a life of penance --- so I'm very glad that was done. I also know people falsely accused and they are never really exonerated afterwards. Their life is in ruins. So I have such mixed feelings. I am like totally, because anyone that's innocent, they should not be penalized or punished [inaudible] they are priests by the same token, someone that's been abused really needs comfort care, not that we can fix the problem. We can't fix it for someone that's been abused, but we need to do everything we can for them. And my fear is will an insurance company insure us after all this because they know [inaudible] you know our property. We can't [large inaudible portion] our church's --- is a very high expense. Are we going to be able to afford [inaudible] ...people in the pews paying --- years ago. So the church itself is shrinking and so we have fewer people and resources to draw on. Are we going to afford to keep our churches open. Thank you.

Father Scott: Thank you for sharing.

Female Parishioner: I don't really have a question but I feel like there is an absolute crisis of faith going on in this community. Every day when you turn on the television and the radio or look at a paper and you hear people, people who know that I work for Father Scott, walk up to me and talk to me in the street about issues that they feel impact their life. It is an absolute crisis in our faith and we need to address the issues and bring people back into our church, back into our school, back into our faith, because they're slipping away at a rapid pace.

Father Scott: Thank you for sharing that.

Female Parishioner: You know, it just struck me that after hearing your homily today and with the victims and there are many and their lives are disasters. They are. But I think and one of my questions, you said up there was what happens to our Diocese? Is it going to be like Rochester? Are we going to have to declare bankruptcy? And then I felt [inaudible] these lawyers will think that hundreds of thousands of dollars are going to make these people's lives right. It doesn't. It can't be about money. In the long run, these people, and I know people who have been abused and I know some of the priests --- have been abusing and for some of them it was not shock, for others it was a shock, but the bottom line is money is not going to make these people whole. It will, if they're paying for treatment and for ongoing. But, hundreds of thousands of dollars, they're not going to walk out and say, my life is going to be good now. My other question is how do we go about supporting the good priest that we have now? What about you people? I remember when

it first happened in the early 2000s and priests were afraid then to put their arm around a child who needed consoling. Put their arm around anybody who needed consoling, maybe just needed a boost, and he couldn't do it anymore. And, what happens now, because that's part of being not just a priest but a Christian and how do we do that? I also feel that I know that Bishop Ed has done a lot with transparency. I'm not so sure I really understand it. I'm not so sure I really, the term is used a lot and I'm not so sure I really feel that there's a lot of transparency, but what happens now to people who have been accused. What's going on? You hear the names of them. You never hear much else, but I think instead of ---\_\_\_\_, it needs to be, the perpetrators need to be punished [inaudible].

Father Scott: Am I hearing three questions there? How do we support priests that are decent? The third question was what is the process going to be for priests that are accused? The middle question, I don't remember what it was. Do you have something Christa?

Christa: No, I don't.

Father Scott: Is that a new question? I just want to be sure that we get the third.

Female Parishioner: What happens to our Diocese?

Father Scott: Ah, that's a good third question. What will happen to our Diocese if these expenses become astronomical? Good questions. So now we have four questions for the Diocese.

Male Parishioner: She stole my thunder. Accountability. We've danced a long time; it's time to pay for it. And no amount of money is going to make...

Father Scott: A little louder [inaudible] ...having a time. I know.

Male Parishioner: We've danced a long time; we need to pay the piper and no amount of money is going to make this whole. It's not going to happen. My ---\_\_\_\_ is that we don't claim bankruptcy. I think it's despicable that Rochester has before anything has materialized. It's a horrible thing for the world to see the evil we've done. [inaudible] don't even have the appearance of evil. Evil we've done and now we wipe it under the table with a legal bankruptcy is horrible and so my [inaudible] would be that we don't. We pay for it. We danced and it's a hard for me to believe that they didn't know what was going on. They meaning the church, the hierarchy whether it was Howard or Ed, they knew what was going on. So, it's time for us to acknowledge our sins and to go forward.

Father Scott: I clarify the questions because I think it might be confusing to some of us. I just want to make sure we're clear. You don't like the idea of bankruptcy because it feels like another way the church would protect itself from the consequences.

Male Parishioner: Absolutely correct. It's ---man and mammon. Right? It's the church and the law. I don't think we should go all under the law of New York State and claim bankruptcy. I think it's despicable.

Father Scott: Okay. Thank you for registering that opinion.

Female Parishioner: I guess one question and one feeling. I'm angry about it all and I'm sure many people here are too, but what do you say when your non-Catholic friends say, so, how are you still going to church? Or, why are you still supporting your church with all the nonsense that's going on? I mean that's a tough question. Of course you can say, well, there's evil in every profession, of course, and you have to stick with the positive. But that's a tough question when somebody asks you that. But, I am. I'm very angry about the whole thing. I'm angry because most everybody here was probably, maybe went to Catholic school, was brought up Catholic and we put a lot of trust in priests and I just feel like it's big slap in the face.

Father Scott: Thanks for sharing that. Good question I think we should write down. I'd love to hear what ---\_\_\_\_ would say about that. What should a faithful Catholic say when your non-Catholic friend asks how can you still be Catholic? How are you hanging in there? I'd like to hear that response.

Female Parishioner: I just want to add on to what Nancy just said. I have a non-Catholic friend who said to me not that long ago, I think every priest is a pedophile and it broke my heart to hear her say that and I just looked at her and said, no, please don't think that because that's not the way it is. So, I guess I struggle with it [inaudible]. I went to Catholic school too. Nancy and I talked about that and I don't know, maybe I was very naïve back then but I never, ever, ever felt any threat by any of the priests that were a part of the faculty in the schools that I went to. I'm part of an alumni group on Facebook for my school and I hear some of my old fellow students say things about those priests that never, ever, ever occurred to me back then. So, again, like I said, maybe I was just naïve. Maybe I didn't see the world for what it really was, but now we're in this position where I guess we all have to think about those things. But the hardest part for me is defending. I don't know what to say.

Father Scott: Understandable. Thank you for sharing that.

Male Parishioner: I don't really have a question. I just have a couple of comments. One, I'm very sensitive to the victims and it does need to be addressed. The other part is I think it's unfair that as [inaudible] said it's unfair to stigmatize all the priests in a bad light. I don't think that's very fair and I think that knowing the Diocese's bigger picture, the Catholic Church needs to do something for you guys, for the good priests, because like going out with my friends or whatever, all priests are pedophiles, all priests are perverts. No they're not. Father Scott's one of my best friends. He was there for me in the hospital when I was almost dying and so, I just get defensive when I hear that. So, my concern is that they do right for you guys.

Father Scott: Thank you. Thanks for sharing.

Female Parishioner: I just want to say that my faith does not waiver one bit. I do not base my faith on the institution. I base my faith on Jesus Christ. {Audience clapping.} I really think that we need to go back and we need to think about that and [inaudible]. We really need to think about that and to pray about that. This church has stood for 100 years unblemished by any priest and so prayer is what we need to do. There is so much in the papers, truths and untruths and it's time for us to think and look at that cross on the altar and remember our church went through a lot and it came through and it's ---still there [inaudible] and if we remember that, we will come through this also. I pray that each of you will remember that and stand strong.

{Audience clapping.}

Father Scott: Thank you. We can see you struck a chord with a lot of people with what you shared. Thank you.

Female Parishioner: I was so happy that Jackie said what she said because I feel very strongly about that. When people ask me how can I still be going to church. How can I still want to be a Catholic, I simply tell them that Jesus Christ started this faith and it's always been ---\_\_\_ weaknesses and things have gone on that shouldn't have for as long as there was a church. And, I'm sure they will continue to go on no matter what we do. However, that really, when the whole thing with Bishop ---Law happened, I was crushed. I mean I just was crushed and then little by little I began to realize that it wasn't about God. It wasn't about Jesus and that's got me through. So, I'm not sure that I have a question. I do have a question, my question would be why, Bishop Law I think that was] 2002...

Father Scott: Cardinal Law in Boston.

Female Parishioner continues: ...but the church has known about this kind of behavior and tried to keep it under wraps for a long time. I'm not sure I understand why the institution, the church itself, hasn't found a way to fix this.

Father Scott: Why have we not yet found a way to fix this. I know the answers to that exist. I know there are some statistics that describe how there have been no new abuse cases in a large number of years here in the Albany Diocese, but that's something [coughing by someone covers speech] to be answered.

Female Parishioner: My question is should we have to declare bankruptcy, how is this going to affect us as parishioners?

Father Scott: If we have to declare bankruptcy what would that mean for parishioners. Great question.

Female Parishioner: I have so many mixed feelings as well. Totally Catholic school educated, Catholic schoolteacher, and a Catholic school principal of a school that is now

closed. {Background speaker interrupts.} Totally Catholic school educated, Catholic school teacher and a Catholic school principal in the area that is now closed. I became aware of many secrets, rumors, but nothing to verify until my secretary told me that the former Bishop used to come and keep an eye on the pastor of the school before I became the principal. When I found out about these things that happened, it certainly shook my faith and then I started to think about, boy if this is happening here, where else might it be happening? And so secrets have always been kept. I am a person who was abused in life and never came forward because family members wanted you to keep it quiet. It was that secret and I bet there's many sitting here that have that secret because the person who did this to me was someone I was supposed to trust. The betrayal that I have felt through the priests who I trust and loved to find out that they were flawed. Human beings are flawed. I'm not trying to make this sound simple, but I have had to dig very deep in going to my heart and think how do I continue on with this and people will ask me, how can you be Catholic? I say, I can't not be Catholic. It's like the air I breathe. It is who I am. But we will always have evil. We will always be tempted and if more people believed that they had a soul, I think our world would be better and we would treat each other kinder. You're not my parish. I came here because Father, and I met him through my cousin, and when I came here last week and it was the prodigal son, I thought this is for my --- for me. Now, I've been going to church at the Teresian House because my dad is there. Great priests that are there and to be amongst the faithful who are in their 80s and 90s was a blessing and a gift. To come here and see at 4:30 mass, the people that are here, I feel that I'm truly with the pew Catholics who have come in here and I believe the lady in the back who said, we have to pray. We truly have to pray. The person who abused me, I forgave. On the day that I forgave him, I felt like a cross was lifted off of my shoulders and he died the next day. To know true forgiveness is really a gift. It's a blessing and I think we need to reflect on the --- like the prodigal son ---. And not to trivialize it because I've been both a victim and a person who's been involved to know some of these secrets and have felt betrayed. But you know what? That's not my church. Church are people and its Jesus Christ. So I want to know how are we going to heal? I want to know those steps and how are those of us who have stuck in there and believe in our priests, how do we help others to move forward?

Father Scott: What a great question. For all of us who stuck in have been here, how do we heal and move forward. You shared very generously. Thank you for your ---strength. Thank you.

Female Parishioner: [inaudible] I was thinking one more thing. With all the victims, I know in these two parishes, during intercessions we pray for the victims of abuse in any form. What more can we do? What more can we do as people of the pews to be in solidarity with those who had kept secrets and who have suffered for so long? I guess specifically I'm thinking about coming together at some point with some kind of a prayer service or something. [inaudible] for anybody who's been affected by abuse. Coming together. I think it's very healing.

Father Scott: It's a good question. What can we do to come together [inaudible].



Male Parishioner: I'd just like to comment for the people when come up to you and say how can you still be a Catholic. One lady said, it's the air I breathe and it is. I don't think we have to explain anything. This is something that's visceral. You don't understand it. Maybe you're better off. Probably you're not. But don't think you have to justify who you are and what you are just because somebody decided, oh they have some bad apples over in the Catholic Church. They must all be a little off. Just don't give them that satisfaction.

Father Scott: Thank you. One thing I'd like to say while take a pause. If anyone needs to leave [inaudible] we're not going to register that as a veto or [inaudible and background laughter]. We know it's 6:15 right now. We've been at it for about half an hour so, we're going to keep going. I expect that this might be the halfway point or a little shy of the halfway point. I have no way to know that. But all I will say is, if you have any --- you need to leave, we will not take offense at all. I'd also like to clarify it sounds like --- question and when said I said how can we come together to support the victims. So we'll make sure that's a clear question. Thank you.

Female Parishioner: We're all victims.

Father Scott: Get it on the mic so that we can hear that. I think that's fair. Yes.

Female Parishioner: I mean we have all personally, we're all victims. We are all victims of what is going on. We have all been affected and I think the solidarity and to keep our eyes on the truth. I mean, that's what keeps us all going. And it's not like the Catholic Church is not had a sordid history throughout with different popes, etc. I mean the Catholic Church has had its share and it will continue. Humans are fallible. No matter what, we hold our highest standards but still and all humans are fallible and we just, we have to keep our eyes on the prize and that's Jesus.

Father Scott: Thank you. I think everyone here can agree, everybody's a victim in some way in this. Nobody is getting out of this unscathed. Very fair. We'll take some time of quiet. Maybe people [inaudible due to background noise]. ...between the questions and the comments it's okay to talk. We won't rush off right away. We'll give people time to say what they need to say.

Female Parishioner: I can't believe I'm standing up here to tell you my story to be quite honest with you. I'm one of the Rochester people who came here to ---see Father Scott. I knew him since he was in college. [inaudible] and I say that honestly. My son, [inaudible], and he is one of the victims. I have people I've shared with this and I felt to say, to speak out ---now and I [inaudible] there a reason for me to be here tonight because [inaudible] my son was an older, married, when this came out [inaudible] and it was heartbreaking and I and I truly love the Catholic Church and my husband was Catholic and never asked me to change. That was fine, I didn't want change. We got married and I [inaudible] the church but didn't change, convert, until I was pregnant with my son and I've always wanted to be the church --- family and I just felt the love. And so I became Catholic [inaudible] in my heart. [inaudible] my husband said to me, I feel so bad. You changed and this has happened to our son. And my son was happy to be an altar boy and you were so proud to

[inaudible]. And so we talked about it and it [inaudible] We go to another church and now it's very difficult. I think my husband was [inaudible] a little more thinking well maybe we should, but I couldn't because I love the church. I and my son, when I talked with my son, he says, mom, I'm telling you it's not the case that I think you should change, leave the church. And, it's [inaudible] in the way he had said it and everything, but I still wasn't sure what we should do. Talked to the priest, and he's a wonderful priest, and I have had a few people have had and I've even had my daughter say, mom I can't believe that you're going to the Catholic Church what happened to ---\_\_\_\_. And I [inaudible] And she's not upset with me or anything, but it has affected my children. My son does not go to church and I don't know if that's the only reason, but I think it definitely [inaudible] and I understand it now. I didn't understand why he didn't. We went to church every Sunday and did all the things that we were supposed to do. But I respect it. I know he believes in God. He's very spiritual and I know my daughter believes in God but she does not go to the Catholic Church either. Whether this would have happened anyway, I [inaudible], but I just wanted to make that point. [inaudible], it's so important that I'm here just because [inaudible] it still bothers me. I wasn't sure how to express it other than [inaudible]. What I'm saying is, you have a beautiful parish here and beautiful people that have spoken [inaudible] and I knew in my heart that this was about God and I [inaudible] sacraments of the Catholic Church. I found that very [inaudible] for the tangible things, like lighting candles, which I'm so happy to see and also confession, which a lot of people don't want to do, but [large inaudible]. I just want you to know I love the Catholic Church and I [inaudible]. You've given me [inaudible] words to say to people if they ask me that and I think I can go back to my daughter [inaudible]. Not that I wasn't [inaudible] but I just couldn't put it into words. *{I think she is moving away the microphone. Large portion totally not understandable.}* What I'm saying is, this is the reason I'm here is that I think God brought me here today just to hear the beautiful mass, see your love in this church, the people that spoke so wisely and kindly and so that's what I wanted to know. I just couldn't sit there and not say it and like I say, [inaudible] but I also feel [inaudible] my son how he wanted to handle it. [inaudible] to the Catholic hierarchies and [inaudible] letter to put in the paper but [inaudible], but he didn't and I'm sure he's had therapy with it and everything. Anyway, amen. That's all I can say and I thank you very much.

Father Scott: Thank you. Thank you for sharing that. {Audience claps.} I'm so happy that you had the courage to share that and that this community had the love to bring it out and - --\_\_\_\_ it. It's a really beautiful thing. Thank you. That's really beautiful.

Male Parishioner: Hi. I know we're all involved here and most of us don't probably don't feel responsible for what happened a long time ago and it has happened before.

Father Scott: Move closer to the mic please.

Male Parishioner: How's that? Better?

Father Scott: Great. Thank you.

Male Parishioner: I know most of us don't feel responsible for what was going on in the past, but we're here and we have to solve it. I think that there's a lot of organizations that have the same problem that we have, but I think we should take the lead and try to do something about it and show the other people that have the same people we have the way to do it. I'd like to know how each allegation is going to be adjudicated. Whether it's going to be within the Diocese or it's going to go to civil authorities. I think my own thought is that each case, ---where the priest or the clergy or the lay person has passed away, it's still going to be adjudicated in some way if an allegation is brought. Now how is that going to be taken care off, with civil authorities or within the church? The same with the living person who is already within the church. How are we going to take care of that person if he's been accused? Are we going to move him to another position, where he can stay away from whatever he's done if he's been accused of something he's done or he should be moved in my opinion to another position where he cannot be involved with whatever he did. That's the big thing. How are we going to hold these people accountable? Whether they have passed away or whether they are still with us. Who's going to do it? My thoughts are it should be done by civil authorities. We don't want any cover-ups being called on the church because we adjudicated it within the church. We want to stay away from that. That's already been done. So my big thing is accountability. Who's going to do all the adjudicating?

Father Scott: So it sounds like a good summary of that question might be, how is each case going to be adjudicated, including those where the accused is deceased? What is the way? Thank you.

Female Parishioner: I'm not really sure if this is a question or a comment or statement. Kind of dovetailing on Clayton. I feel like the message that I'd like to send to the Diocese is don't give up and don't let something that has happened become what defines us. This goes along with the fact that Jesus founded this church and the statements that have been said before. I truly think that there is something of the devil that is trying to break our church and I don't want to cover it up. I don't want to not handle it. I too agree that it should be handled by civil authorities and then the protection stops. The shielding, the protecting because you are violating civilian laws and then I ---hope the church can focus on being the church and let us focus on what our focus is and that is being that safe haven and being a place where people come rather than a place where people have to be afraid to be a part of. And to the priest, I want to personally to just, and all of us as Catholics not only speaking [inaudible] I get more questions from people who are former Catholics, who are not practicing Catholics, than I do non-Catholics about why are we still there. But that all of us would not be afraid to be Catholic and to be able speak whether [inaudible] the Rochester lady, I'm sorry I don't know your name, so eloquently said, you know, some of these comments have given us now words and the courage to be able to answer those questions rather than to just hide in shame and in fear, which I think is exactly what Satan wants us to do. To shy away from them. Stop being that light. So I guess to the Diocese, don't give up and help us to focus on what our focus is supposed to be. We are not the scandal. We are the church that will [someone coughs and covers her speech] ---survive the scandal.

Father Scott: Very well said. Thank you for sharing that. It's very well said.

Male Parishioner: Since the legal process is sort of brought up, I would like to know what the Diocese intends to do with this. There have been two allegations against Bishop Hubbard. His name is out there. --- another priest is out there for abusing a woman. Another priest's name is out there for raping a woman but he's conveniently dead. So he's not going to be able to defend himself. But so far they said a young boy in the 70s who was 16 was abused by Bishop Hubbard, a woman in the 80s who was 15 was abused by Bishop Hubbard and a couple of companions. What happened to being able to face your accuser? What's the Diocese doing? [inaudible] if our people's names have to be out there, the accusers names have to be out there. If they are upset that this happened to them, they certainly have every right and reason to be, then why...I mean an allegation will be made. It's he said; she said. If it can't be proven they go back into the silence. Bishop Hubbard and this other guy and the poor dead priests, their names are tainted til the day they die and beyond. If you want to do this right if you want to do this fairly, if they did it fine – nail them. But if they didn't, don't let them have to carry this stigma around for the rest of their lives because somebody made a --- allegation. I want to know what the Diocese is going to do to punish the perpetrators and defend the innocent because that's as much of being a Christian as [someone coughs and speaker can't be heard].

Father Scott: [inaudible] there might be two questions there ---. The first question might be why are people allowed to make accusations without disclosing their identity. Maybe that's a question to be answered so we know why that's allowed. And then the second question is what is the Diocese going to do to differentiate between guilty and the innocent and how will they defend the innocent if it's declared that the accusation was false. That's a very good question. Thank you.

Female Parishioner: I'm encouraged that it appears by what you say [inaudible] that we're trying to be open about it and to stop [inaudible] hiding and stop making this [inaudible]. So I'm encouraged about that and I understand what Anthony says about people asking how can you still be. I haven't had that question to me yet, but I know that my friends and some family that do think that. But, you know what, like so many who've been here to St. Patrick's school and we've had different priests and some people left our church and went someplace else, but I'm not leaving. This is it for me and it's not [inaudible]. The church [inaudible] but this is it for me and I'm not leaving.

Father Scott: Thank you.

Female Parishioner: One more quick thing. I'm going to embarrass Scott, but I wanted to say that when I was talking and I think I made the point clearly being here and [inaudible] comment when we were all here. And Scott ---without even knowing, he was an instrument in that [inaudible] with a conversation we had, the three of us and we weren't talking anything in particular [inaudible] we just were talking about the meeting today and Scott said something very ---appropriate about tonight. I don't even know what today is. And I said after you left --- and I said [large inaudible] I didn't say it before and I might have, I'm nervous, but it [large inaudible portion]...

Father Scott: ...[inaudible]

Female Parishioner: ...he had that answer to give me but it took this couple of years to get it to me without even talking about it. That's all. Thank you.

Father Scott: Thank you. It's amazing all the ways God can get to us through ---\_\_\_\_ people and moments that you never know. It's so true that you've been very kind [inaudible] because we need your courage in this. A lot of people are bringing forth ---\_\_\_\_ things but they need to hear from someone who knows both sides so intimately and has paid a high price for her words. They don't come cheaply. It's very costly, beautiful words.

{Inaudible speaker with no microphone.}

Father Scott: Thank you.

Female Parishioner: [inaudible] I haven't been a Catholic very long. I'm probably one of your newer Catholics [inaudible].

Father Scott: We're recoding it so we do need it, thank you.

Female Parishioner: I haven't been a Catholic very long but what I do know is there are bad people everywhere and I was taught that they'll get theirs in the end because that's [inaudible] all the good people and the bad people. And this is a lovely church and I love my priest, so. {Laughter.} And everybody's here. We're all this family. I feel very comfortable sitting back there every Saturday or Sunday morning and you're all family to me and we'll make it.

{Audience clapping.}

Father Scott: Thank you and we'll all have fried dough tomorrow. [inaudible]. Thank you. Amen.

Father Scott: We're to about 55 minutes so let's take a few more minutes. There may be some people who've been waiting for some time to get ---\_\_\_\_ courage and opportunity to say something. Sometimes you need some silence in order for people to emerge. So, no pressure. It's not like everybody here has to speak. Some people might come here so let's just make some silence together and if anyone wants to pierce the silence, they'll do that.

{Silent pause.}

Father Scott: Let's have another few moments of silence and then we'll conclude with prayer.

There's a book that's very powerful that's been given out. It's by Bishop Robert Baron. He is not one of the Bishops you see often ---leading the Diocese because he's what's called an

Auxiliary Bishop. He's one of the supporting Bishops in Los Angeles. But, he's been famous for a long time because he has a website called Word On Fire and he produced the --- series that many people saw in different parishes and so we thought he's kind of big on line, but he's become a bishop because he knows how to get the message out to people and he's written a book in his shock and horror over what has been going on over the past 15 years, but he wrote it this past year since what happened last summer. It's called, Letter to a Suffering Church. We ordered 100 copies of it, but through an internal glitch, we didn't get them here for tonight but we will have these at the back of the church. I would love for everybody who came to this to be among the first to get them. So if you are like, I want that book, it took me, I read it on retreat last week and it took me just about an hour and a half to read it. I took notes on it so I'd have [inaudible] outline [inaudible] about it. So, it's not hard to read but it is a very helpful to read. He breaks down what this is all about by saying, he talks a little bit about what Christa said about how dark this is and how it feels that it has been designed from the darkness. There's something really masterfully bad about this. He then talks about scripture. What the scripture has to say about things like this and you'd be amazed the things he finds in scripture. Then he goes to a short chapter on church history and tells you things about the bad popes that may have heard of once but would not [inaudible] to help you know if we got through that 1,000 years ago, I bet that we'll get through this. Then he has a chapter called Why Should We Stay. And, finally there's a Chapter called The Way Forward. It's a really good book. So, if you want to make sure you get one, you can call the office and we'll put one aside for you. We'll put a sticky note with your name on it. Otherwise you'll find it in the back of church and we're going to keep ordering them until people no longer seem to want to read them. So, there's prayer for a suffering church in the back of it and I'd like to read that as we come to our closing. So, I want the prayer to be our final word, so I'll just say now thank you. I feel – it would be wrong to say I feel better. Wouldn't that be the wrong word? I don't feel better, but I feel more at peace. I feel grateful to know better what people are thinking. I feel just about everybody shared something that you shared resonated with what I'm experiencing too. And, you know there were moments of great courage tonight. There were a few moments where somebody said something that took a lot of courage. And of course [inaudible] we'll as we go forward tonight but there are others who said very courageous things. So thank you for your courage. Thank you for your faith, and maybe as I read this closing prayer, maybe you want to close your eyes if you like doing that, maybe you want to look up. Maybe you want to look down. Maybe you want to keep your eyes on the cross the way Jackie said. You know, focus on the fact that we worship God who knows suffering very intimately. However you choose to pray, take a moment and pray.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grant we pray, Oh Lord, healing for all victims of sexual abuse. Purify your church of corruption. Bring justice to those who have been wronged. Grant consolation to all who are afflicted. Cast your light to banish the shadows of deception. Manifest to all your advocacy of those who have been so cruelly hurt and your judgment upon those who having perpetrated those crimes remain unrepentant. Compel those of your church to whom you have entrusted to safeguard the innocent and act on behalf of the victims to be vigilant and zealous in their duties. Restore faith to those from whom it has been stolen and hope to those who have despaired. Christ, you are a victim. We call out to you.

Strengthen your faithful to accept the mission placed before us, a mission of holiness and truth. Inspire us to become advocates of those who have been harmed. Grant us strength to fight for justice. Impart to us courage so that we might forthrightly face the challenges to come. Raise up saints from your church and grant us the grace to become the saints you desire us to be. This we ask of you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Father Scott: Thank you. Good night.