



August 16, 2018

Dear Friends,

This week I have been angered, saddened and ashamed by the news about the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report concerning the abuse of children by clergy and the cover up by Bishops. This, along with the recent news of an investigation at St. John's Seminary in Boston and the Archbishop McCarrick scandal, has been quite overwhelming. At the same time, my thoughts and prayers have been for all of you. You live the faith on the front lines, in the world and have to endure not only the pain of this news, but the reaction of coworkers, friends and family. There are no words that can adequately describe or explain any of this. As Pastor and a member of the clergy, I can only express apologies for the betrayal and the lack of leadership shown by the Church.

At the 6PM Mass for the Assumption, I mentioned the statue of Our Lady of Hope from my first assignment as a priest. Our Lady holds before her an anchor, the symbol of the virtue of Hope. The message is that Hope keeps us connected to God himself, to His promises and His graces. Hope keeps us anchored to Him despite the storms and challenges we will encounter on the journey of faith. We are being painfully reminded that human beings, in the Church, in government or society at large, are not perfect and are in fact capable of some pretty horrible things. Our faith and hope must be in Jesus Christ who came to redeem us from our brokenness and sinfulness.

We must remain vigilant in our faith and trust in the Lord. Policies and practices need to and will change. Our call to live a life of conversion by uniting our hearts and minds to Christ and living His Gospel remains.

Please join me in praying for our Church, praying for one another and for the victims of these scandals. Know that I continue to pray for you and your loved ones.

Peace,  
Fr. David