

Responding in Faith to the Global Clergy Abuse Crisis

Opening prayer for Parish Conversations

Heavenly Father, we place ourselves in your Holy Presence this afternoon/evening.

Please guide us, direct us, support us and protect us as we endeavor to share, listen, and learn together.

Please now join in a responsorial prayer, the response is:

Lord, open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

- May we come to a greater understanding of what the crisis means for our faith...

R. Lord, open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

- May we raise our questions and voices, our concerns and hopes, with clarity and gentleness of spirit...

R. Lord, open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

- May we listen to You and to each other respectfully, prayerfully and with great love as we share our thoughts and feelings...

R. Lord, open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

- May we be open to receiving information about what the church is doing at all levels to address the crisis; and may we do our part to bring humility and healing to your wounded church...

R. Lord, open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

Called by our Holy Father Pope Francis, and guided by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, we pray for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse:

FATHER, Since your mercy has been revealed

In the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ,

who said to his disciples:

"Suffer the little children to come unto me",

we pray that your Church may be a secure home

where all children and vulnerable adults are brought closer to your Beloved Son.

May all those who have been abused physically, emotionally and sexually by your ministers,

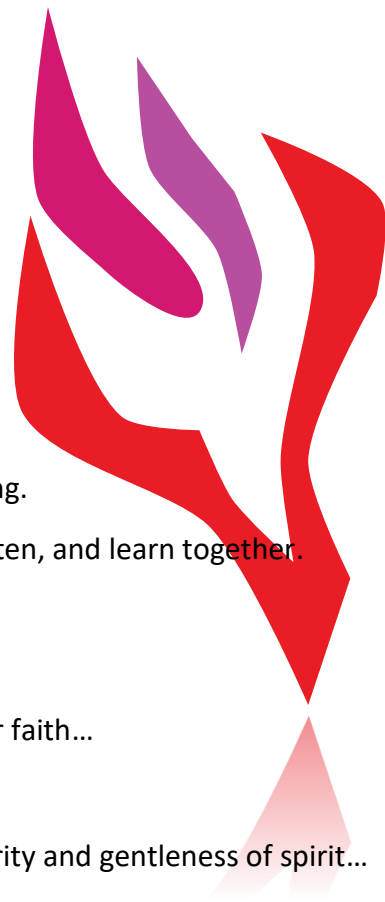
be respected and accompanied by

tangible gestures of justice and reparation so that

they may feel healed with the balm of your compassion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

R Amen



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your guidance and protection this afternoon/evening. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds so that we have been able to share with and listen to each other. We thank you for the information that has been offered to us. Help us to understand, as Pope Francis writes, that

“Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated.”
(Letter from Pope Francis to the People of God, 20 August 2018)

We ask you to bless us as we move forward from this meeting. May our active participation in this meeting strengthen our sense of community and in some tangible way help the Church to “be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change.” (Also from 20 August letter)

We ask this in the name of Jesus...

R Amen

Please pray every day for the victims and their families.