

What is Empathic Listening?

A Catholic Church is a place where we are supposed to experience God and His love, including and especially at sensitive moments in life. However, sometimes love is not experienced as it should, for a Church is a hospital for sinners and it is filled with imperfect people. Those imperfect sinners even include those who work for the Church, even the pastor, who is supposed to represent Christ in a special way.

As a result, we can be hurt, even deeply hurt at Church for reasons ranging from deeply sinful actions, such as clerical abuse of children, to misunderstandings and miscommunications regarding matters of personal importance.

Jesus wants to bring healing and restoration to those hurts. But sometimes we just need someone to listen to us, to hear our story... to recognize and acknowledge that we have been hurt, before we can start the process of healing.

The opportunities for empathic listening are chances to bring to a representative of the Church stories and experiences when we have been hurt at St. Pius X (or by the Catholic Church in other ways) over the past years or decades, with the hope that our stories can be met with empathy.

The listening will happen in private one-on-one sessions with Fr. Joe, Fr. Desmond, Deacon Tim, Kim Williams, Angie Neumann, Kathy Neumann and Christopher Burke. The exact schedule of who and when will be listening will and the location where they will be available are listed below.

You do not need to have left St. Pius or the Catholic Church to share, but PLEASE ESPECIALLY INVITE ANYONE YOU KNOW WHO HAS LEFT ST. PIUS OR WHO HAS LEFT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DUE TO BEING HURT IN SOME WAY TO COME AND BE HEARD