



Visitation of Our Lady Church

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October 2, 2020

Dear Visitation Family:

It was very disheartening to hear of the news regarding Fr. Patrick Wattigny, who served here as Parochial Vicar from 1997-1999. He admitted on his own volition to the Archdiocese of abusing a minor in 2013. He has been removed from active ministry, and law enforcement has been notified.

How do we respond to this? We do what we do best as Christians, that is pray. First and foremost we pray for the healing of the victim. These wounds are something that only the Divine Physician can soothe. Only the Crucified One could bring us out of a darkness like this; by His wounds we are healed. (Is. 53:5)

We pray for all of us affected by this news. Priests are shepherds and fathers, who provide and protect those entrusted to them. Trust in the Catholic Church is called into question again. Trust in her ordained ministers is weakened. The personal faith of many can be shattered, and so we pray for we who have been shocked by this. A response to this can be found in the words of St. Peter to Jesus, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Jn. 6:68)

We can also pray for Fr. Wattigny. Jesus tells us to love those who have hurt us, and to forgive as many as 77 times. (Mt. 5:44; Mt. 18:22) Yes, the cries for justice are warranted. He deserves all of the earthly justice to be done upon him, as these sins cry out to Heaven. May we leave the eternal justice to our Heavenly Father. This side of Heaven is all about mercy. Let us not give in to the temptation of limiting God's mercy upon others, as He might limit it upon us. His mercy endures forever. His mercy is boundless and limitless. All can be forgiven if repentant. Everyone can be healed.

We would like to reiterate our commitment in protecting the young and vulnerable in our parish. Visitation is and remains a safe place for our VOL School and CCD students to learn about Christ and grow in their faith, a home for families to come and worship the Triune God in Liturgy.

Sincerely,

Fr. Colin Braud
Pastor

Mrs. Carolyn Levet
Principal