



TO: Very Reverend Gary Zender, Archdiocese of Seattle
FROM: Helena Stephens, Chair, St. Therese Pastoral Council
RE: Sexual Abuse Crisis Listening Sessions' Response – October 21 and 23, 2018
DA: October 26, 2018

Please find a summary of information gathered at the two in-person Listening Sessions held at St. Therese Catholic Church on Sunday, October 21, 2018 and Tuesday, October 23, 2018.

Attached to this summary is information gathered from:

- Three summary sheets from each Listening Session group
- 29 written responses from the in-person sessions. 34 persons participated in the Listening Sessions.
- 18 online survey responses were received as of October 25, 2018.

No responses to the voicemail surveys were received.

Please contact Fr. Maurice Mamba, Priest Administrator or Deacon Greg McNabb, Pastoral Associate (206.325.2711) or myself (hwgstephens@gmail.com or 206.920.8223), if you have questions or comments.

Cc: Father Maurice Mamba, Priest Administrator
Deacon Greg McNabb, Parish Associate
Pastoral Council of St. Therese Catholic Church



St. Therese Catholic Church
926 – 35th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122
October 21 & 23, 2018

SEXUAL ABUSE LISTENING SESSIONS SUMMARY

Session 1 – 32 persons in attendance

Session 2 2 persons in attendance/written hand-outs only

Question 1 - What is weighing on your heart about the abuse scandal right now?

- Sorrow
 - For victims, families, loss of potential
- Anger and disappointment
 - at leadership's lack of ownership and responsibility, diversion of the problem to others, abuse of power
 - that clericalism assumes "forgive and forget"
 - because we are complicit if continue to contribute our time, faith and money
 - that legal proceedings were what necessitated the exposure, not morality and faith
 - that good people are paying the price for church leaderships repeated transgressions and mismanagement.
 - That the fund raiser for retired priests and nuns came out now, without any apparent understanding of how people would view the ask at this time
- Shame
 - How can we continue on as Catholics?
 - People are embarrassed to say they are Catholic – there is no excuse or explanation that makes sense.
- Impatience
 - This has gone on far too long
- Fear
 - That there is so much more than we know
- Next Steps - What do Catholics do now?
 - Leave the Church?
 - Wait and see how this is handled?
 - Does staying imply acceptance?

Question 2. - What recommendations about governance, procedures, inclusion of laity, do you want to make to the Archbishop and the USCCB for their November meeting?

- Restructure:
 - Full administrative review to identify gaps and opportunities
 - Ongoing compliance reviews with resultant reporting
 - leadership to include modern/proven models – only hold sacred what is truly sacred
 - changes to allow for humanity, including reconsidering celibacy and marriage
 - equalizing women
 - Absolution that does not interfere with accountability
- Education
 - Appropriate psychological training of seminarians to prepare for the LIFE of priesthood
 - Complete review of seminarian educational requirements
- Laity participation
 - Laity boards - Some form involved at all levels of leadership, and NOT limited to sexual abuse reviews
 - Women in leadership roles
 - Church is dynamic—bishops look at culture of the church—past, present, future
 - Bishops need to understand the role of the laity in the world and the difficulty now
- Transparency
 - Communicate everything, now. Air all the dirty laundry, don't hide, be honest
 - Continued long term communication and reporting
 - Share procedures, policies, rules, etc. regarding sexual or other abuse prevention
 - Share considerations, next steps and ongoing reviews related to the survey and sexual abuse
- Accountability
 - Acknowledge individual and collective failures and respective ownership
 - Hold others and ourselves accountable
 - Make authentic changes
 - Hold people and groups accountable
 - Do not place inappropriate blame on homosexuality.
 - Healing - Acknowledge damage
 - Compensate
 - Provide psychological support
 - Criminal prosecution should be expected and supported.
- Psychological Screening
 - Retroactive and proactive for anyone with access to at-risk populations
- Truth and Reconciliation
 - Consider the South African and British Columbia T&R models
 - Share stories of survival and loss.