

Mission San Diego de Acalá

Pulpit remarks for August 19, 2018

As the priests who serve you here at the Mission, Fr. Bill, Fr. Billy and I feel a responsibility to share with you our reaction to the news about the Catholic Church that came out of Pennsylvania this past week. Like you, we share a deep sense of sorrow and shock at the extent of harm and grief this criminal behavior has caused so many. Moreover, we too feel anger, doubt and dissolution with the structures of leadership in the Church that have yet to fully reconcile the situation and hold accountable all those who have been complicit in this scandal.

As clergy, we stand in solidarity with you, the lay faithful, who not only yearn for, but demand true reconciliation, justice and renewal in the Church. We are committed to working together with our leadership to bring about true change and transparency that will enable the Church of Christ to be the sacrament of salvation it is called to be.

We want you to know that Bishop McElroy has called for a special meeting of the Deans of the Diocese of San Diego and the Executive Committee of the Presbyteral Council. I have been invited to this meeting and I plan to attend.

The dark cloud this scandal continues to cause evokes in us an even greater commitment to the Gospel that is the standard by which all our lives must be measured.

We your priests and pastoral staff are here for you and we ask for your prayers as we sort through the confusion, sadness and implications of this past week's news.

Saint Junipero Serra, pray for us.