

Parish Meeting - St. Joseph, Vancouver
September 30, 2018
2:00pm – 3:30pm

3:30pm Notes in Response to: Abuse by Clergy; Bishops, Priests and Deacons

1. Stop fighting extension of Statute of Limitations because sexual abuse is pervasive in society and these limitations must be extended or done away with.
2. Protect sisters and nuns from sexual assault and harassment that has been ignored by hierarchy. I want to know their abusers are removed from office ASAP.
3. Allow priests to marry and married men.
4. Remove archbishops, bishops and cardinals from church that covered up priest abusers, excommunication even. Need total and complete transparency. Allow priests to marry and ordain married men.
5. Stop conflating homosexuality with pedophilia.
6. Allow women positions of authority in church. Allow outside investigations of abuse and the “secret files.”
7. These abuses need to be treated like all other crimes, i.e., law enforcement needs to be involved and consequences rendered.
8. Mandatory reporting!
9. These clergy and bishops have lost the confidence of the faithful, very little trust.
10. Very hesitant to give financial support. Really - \$3 billion paid out already?
11. Way too much secrecy with the clergy.
12. Weighing most heavy on my heart now are those people whose lives have been wrecked with nothing done about it – by leaders in our Church!!
13. Abuse by ANY Clergy NEEDS to stop and those responsible for the abuse NEED to be punished by the same law as anyone else – prison!

14. Retribution for those mistreated/abused. Punishment for the perpetrators. Prison. Public humiliation and excommunication.
15. Give women more responsibility in more prominent positions.
16. How do Bishops advise the laity to help restore the faith in the Church?
17. I feel many years ago the Church was a place for homosexuals to hide. With a more open mind homosexuals do not have to hide their sexuality in 2018.
18. We need to make sure we are open and know what is going on. We cannot hide any abuse. I need to be an open book.
19. Please, Archbishop Sartain, take a strong stand against your priests and bishops if they are guilty. The littlest lambs of the Church, those victimized deserve that.
20. Sexual Abuse. In the same way that in order to be absolved from stealing you need to return what you stole. I believe that in order to be absolved of sexual abuse, people who confess this should be forced to go to the person (and family in the case of a minor) to apologize and contribute in the healing process of the victim.
21. There clearly needs to be a house cleaning – removal of all who have committed assault or participated in cover-up.
22. Church has lost moral currency: Child abuse, homosexuality, obstruction of justice, lack of transparency.
23. It appears that: The American Church Hierarchy continues to do the same – pr. gives excuses, puts the burden on the parishioners and cover their “backsides.”
24. Power and greed are sources of the problem.
25. Big investigations need to be done by civil authorities – not the Church personnel or Church appointed committees. Parishioners (including victims) cannot trust that a thorough investigation will be done. Could women play a role (with power and decision making)? Deacons? Do we need to expand who can be a priest? How can problems be addressed in compassionate, fair and moral ways?