



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

January 2, 2019

In Reparation...

Recently I was watching a news segment on national television in which a victim of clergy sexual abuse said that she was not moved by the “Masses of Reparation” being offered in various dioceses. I took this comment sadly to heart inasmuch as I will be presiding at three such Masses in our Archdiocese in the coming weeks.

It is certainly true that offering a Mass is not of itself sufficient to address the grievous suffering and betrayal experienced by victims. Our Archdiocese is committed to doing everything humanly possible to heal their wounds. That includes efforts like public acknowledgment and apology, counselling and support groups, and a renewed invitation on my part to meet personally with victims.

For a person of faith, however, there can be no doubt that evil and sin also call for remedies that are profoundly spiritual. In ordinary speech “reparation” simply means making amends to another person or persons for an offense or injustice committed against them. Inasmuch as an offense or injustice is sinful, it also demands that reparation be made to God.

Sexual abuse is a sin against a person created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed by the sacrificial death of Christ on the Cross. It is a sin against another person and a sin against God. Spiritual reparation and healing need to be made.

I am reminded of the prayer revealed to the children at Fatima by an angel: “My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask forgiveness for those who do not believe, nor adore nor hope nor love you. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly, and I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of His Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners.”

What greater “outrage, sacrilege and indifference” can be hurled at Christ, what greater betrayal, than that one of his priests should sexually violate a child or vulnerable adult? So it is on my knees as a bishop, and on their knees as priests, that we the clergy of this Archdiocese offer Masses of reparation for the crime and sin of sexual abuse.

I invite everyone to participate in the Masses of Reparation that will be offered because the whole Body of Christ is suffering, and the prayers of all God’s people are vital. Each Mass will be accompanied by an hour of Eucharistic Adoration and the recitation of the Rosary.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

Sunday, January 27	2:00 p.m.	St Bartholomew Church, Manchester 736 Middle Tpk. East (St Teresa of Calcutta Parish)
Saturday, February 16	11:00 a.m.	St. George Church, Guilford 33 Whitfield Street
Tuesday, March 26	7:00 p.m.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Harwinton 78 Litchfield Road (Our Lady of Hope Parish)