

From the desk of Fr. Paul . . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you may have heard by now, the Attorney General is seeking to open an investigation into the role that some of the clergy and religious of the Catholic Church in New York State have engaged in the sexual abuse of minors. The investigation also focuses on the response of the bishops and superiors of those accused to see if they provided adequate response to these crimes and adequate protection of minors.

These are painful things to discuss. They reveal the betrayal of trust and faith by those whose duty was to foster faith and trust instead of destroying them. Terrible harm has been done to these people when they were the most vulnerable and needing protection. We must continue to pray for them.

I believe strongly that upholding truth and honesty is the best way to address this situation. More than ever, we need more transparency now. Therefore, I remind you that if you are aware of any sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York to contact, please, **Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P.**, at **212-371-1000, ext. 2949**. Sister may also be reached via e-mail at: victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website: www.archny.org.

Now is the time for us to use our faith in a loving God to help us to do what is right and just.

— *Father Paul*

September 16, 2018