

From the desk of Fr. Paul . . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recently, a Grand Jury in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania published a report of more than 800 pages of horrific details of the sexual abuse of more than 1,000 young persons at the hand of more than 300 priests and religious in 6 of the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania over the course of 70 years. It is a harsh and scathing indictment against the failure of the Church to address a real and terrible situation: that some priests and religious misused the trust that people placed in them by doing horrible things to young people in their charge and so have hurt them for years to come.

Not only were these terrible things done by those who should have acted as shepherds, when accusations were made against them, their own shepherds – the bishops and provincials who were responsible with overseeing the ministry of these people – responded to many of these complaints by moving those charged from one place to another, thinking that the perpetrators would simply stop from such behavior. The results were disastrous.

As a Carmelite and as a priest, the only way that I can describe my feelings as I read the report is that I am filled with sadness, sickness, repulsion and horror.

Much has to be done. We must be more vigilant. I do apologize for these sins against innocent ones. We must be more honest and open, because **TRUTH** will always come out.

Please pray for the Church, our Pope, our Bishops and our Clergy, who have so much to atone for. Please pray for those people who have suffered so much from the hands of those who should have been protecting them. Please pray that the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, will be our strength and our aid to be kinder and more respectful.

– *Father Paul*

September 9, 2018