

As you likely know, over the past couple weeks we put out requests for help with various ministries. Thank you for those who responded. In case you didn't get a chance to see the current needs, please take a look on the back counter of the church. Consider if the Lord is calling you to respond to one of these ministry needs.

I thank you for all the ways you are generous. Not only your time and talent, but also your financial support of the parish. As I've said before, we run on a lean budget and work hard to be responsible with what you entrust to us. Thank you.

It's been awhile since I spoke on the issue of the sex abuse crisis. While some people would appreciate more talk, others don't feel that way. I'm trying to balance occasionally addressing it (as I did back in August 2018) and updating as needed, but not belaboring it. Refer to the dedicated page on our parish website.

The U.S. bishops will meet in June to establish next steps. As someone recently told me: "*I want more than just words. I want results and justice*". Agreed. There must be some corrections and safeguards put in place. And yes, justice too.

I remind us that our Archdiocese, under the leadership of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, was ahead of the curve. Back in the 1980s, well before the Dallas Charter of 2002, before the apostolic visitation of all seminaries in the U.S. in 2004, the Archdiocese of Seattle had already begun to put measures and safe environment practices in place. I know of only one accusation of inappropriate behavior (a police investigation revealed it was *not sexual abuse*) from a priest with a minor in this archdiocese since 2002.

I've been asked, "*Do my contributions to the parish support sex abusers?*" Good question. Any settlements for past sex abuses have been paid by insurance or by selling unused assets. "*Don't my contributions go toward the insurance premiums, thus making me a supporter of the abusers?*" Again, good question. I would argue that we would want insurance even if we had no cases, and that requires paying premiums. But furthermore, because there were abuses in the past, our Archdiocese has worked hard not only to put safeguards in place, but also to respond pastorally, meeting with those who were injured and compensating them for their injuries—we have that responsibility too. Thankfully, our Archdiocese is trying to make right, the wrongs of the past.

Recently, our Archdiocese established a new website to serve as a platform on this issue: to inform, but also to help people know how to respond to causes for concern (including the list of credibly accused clergy and religious): <https://protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org/>