

August 19, 2018 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Ordinary Time

The author of Proverbs personifies *Wisdom (God)* and states, “**Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I’ve mixed...forsake foolishness that you may live.**” Paul tells the Ephesians: “**Be careful and watch over your conduct. Do not act like fools, but like thoughtful people.**”

The recent release of the Grand Jury report for Pennsylvania indicated a staggering number of the abuse of minors by clergy over the past 70 years. The allegations and subsequent resignation of Archbishop McCarrick, along with other social and political issues of our times can be overwhelming and disheartening. We have learned again that covering up by those in authority does not heal, but keeps us in the darkness.

**So, thank you for being here with the Church today**...despite this sinfulness (indeed foolishness) that the authors of Proverbs and Ephesians warn us about at this liturgy. We are reminded by the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report that we, the Church are holy, yet also sinful.

If you’re like me, you’re wondering *what can I do?* Well, we’ve already done something, **we’re here.** And that is why every time we gather to receive the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we begin by saying *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.* God’s mercy permeates each and every gathering of the Church.

**We can pray at this Eucharist** for all the victims & survivors of abuse and their families that they may know the healing balm of God’s love and mercy. Let us pray especially that the survivors of clergy sexual abuse find healing, comfort and strength.

**And we can pray that our leadership, particularly clergy (from the Pope on down) and religious communities** work to restore trust through walking with victims, communion, accountability and justice. We are all charged with protecting the most vulnerable among us, especially our children.

In a short while we will process to receive the body and blood of Christ. The next procession will be when we process out of this church building. Let us be what we receive: the very presence of Christ to each other.

Lord have mercy...Christ have mercy...Lord have mercy!