

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Keep up the Prayers and Get Involved!

As a reminder from last week, Pope Francis has indicated a desire to coordinate world-wide effort to address the evil of abuse where it still exists, to augment the existing measures that have been in place, especially in the United States since 2002, and which have already made a huge difference. He has called together an **international gathering** of the heads of the Episcopal Conferences (basically, bishops from each nation) to be held at the Vatican beginning this week (Feb 21-24), in order to get a handle on the various aspects of the latest wave of this crisis. The gathering has much potential for action and healing within the Church. I thought that given the importance of this upcoming summit, and the wounds we have all experienced from the scandal, it would be a good opportunity for our local Hardin County parishes to do some things in relation to the summit: to pray for the success of the summit, and also to reflect on our own questions, experiences, and needs. **As a body of disciples, we all need healing and encouragement**, after certain members of the Church itself have suffered from the effects of the cultural confusion regarding human sexuality from the last 50 years, which in turn has caused immense suffering for others.

Accordingly, in today's bulletin, as I shared last weekend, you will find once again two tools to use in the coming days: a) a **NOVENA** of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Prayer is so key to ongoing healing and reform. A Novena is a powerful form of prayer that is done over a 9-day period. Together as Hardin County Catholics, let's continue to pray this Novena in these days leading up to the beginning of the Vatican Summit: that is, from now through this Thursday Feb 21. Also, b) I have inserted in today's bulletin a **QUESTIONNAIRE** that I encourage you to fill out as a way to express what questions, experiences, and needs you may have as disciples struggling with the reality of this evil in our world. This questionnaire will be important for me to discern what possible forms of prayer and sharing might be helpful for us in our parishes in the near future.

Because the Catholic Church is such a beautiful and effective presence of Jesus Christ in our world, the evil one always tries to find ways to undermine its mission of the salvation of souls. But we must never let the evil one have his way. We must take action surrounded by the love of the Crucified Christ and not to give up as disciples. So, again, I urge all to make use of this Novena and this Questionnaire as ongoing steps in action and healing.

Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at [hamilton.college@outlook.com](mailto:hamilton.college@outlook.com) or at 419-634-2626.

### DID YOU KNOW? A Note From Your Parish Finance Council

[As indicated earlier, we will periodically be placing "blurbs" in the bulletin to make everyone aware of our practical, parish stewardship needs:]

The last fiscal year at Our Lady of Lourdes, we spent \$10,295 on expenses related to PSR, Youth Group, and Newman Club. This includes the classroom materials, youth retreat experiences, Kairos retreat costs, study supplies, etc. These forms of catechesis and evangelization are crucial to passing our Faith on to the next generation. These costs are necessary and difficult to lower. Fees and fundraising activities only covered about 70% of these expenses. The rest must be covered by the Weekly Offertory. However, we are still running short in covering our parish expenses. Please consider an increase in your Weekly Offertory, which provides the vast majority of our needed parish income. Thanks for your generosity and support of our parish family!

### THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by "Jackie", the Pastor's Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie", and as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat. I'm...I'm just dumbfounded! Just meow-less! That's right! Father came back to the house last Saturday night and told me that the big kids from the local university (that's a big school!) were having a "Game Night". I thought that was so great...games are fun, like Monopoly and chess, for instance. But he told me that the game they were playing was called "Exploding Kittens"! I'm not kidding! It's a card game that pretends that cats get into situations that set off big explosions!

Well, at first, I was pretty mad. Why don't they pick on someone else, and make a game like "Exploding Dogs"? (That would be *really* funny!) But then I calmed down and realized that the game is just for fun, and it actually says how curious and courageous we cats really are! We are brave creatures not afraid to explore new things! Any maybe, we cats DO need to be more safe and cautious when we exercise our curiosity. Are you like us cats? Do you have a lot of curiosity and bravery? Well, pray to Jesus and ask Him for wisdom to be careful and safe as you explore the world as you grow up! Have a "purr"-fect week!

# **Novena of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for healing and surrender**

**Suggested for use in preparation for the  
Vatican Worldwide Summit of Bishops on the Abuse Crisis  
in the nine days leading to the opening of the summit, that is,  
from Wednesday 13 February through Thursday 21 February, 2019**

[Pray the following each day of the nine day period:]

**Divine Jesus, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." Behold me kneeling at Your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by Your Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary. I come to ask this favor: *(Mention your request: e.g., fruit of the bishops' summit; healing of victims; personal healing from the scandal; continued growth of our parishes, etc.)*.**

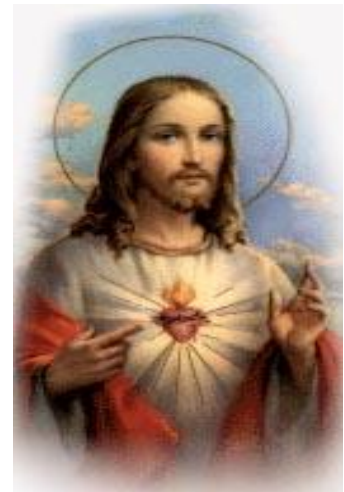
**To whom can I turn if not to You, Whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of Your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives Himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to You, Heart of Jesus. In You I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.**

**Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that You can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of Your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy, and You will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of You, and Your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weakness a reason for granting my prayer.**

**Sacred Heart, whatever may be Your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving You. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of Your adorable Heart, which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all Your creatures forever.**

**Grant me the grace for which I humbly implore You through the Immaculate Heart of Your most sorrowful Mother. You entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with You. Amen.**

**Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Pray for Us!  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us!  
St. Michael the Archangel, Pray for Us!  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on Us!**



# Questionnaire

for use in our local prayerful preparation for the  
Vatican Worldwide Summit of Bishops on the Abuse Crisis

(Please see the 'Pastor's Column' for background information)

## Instructions:

1. Kindly DO NOT fill out the questionnaire during Mass time, out of respect for our Lord.
2. You may take this home to pray about your responses and to fill in.
3. It is completely optional whether you wish to sign your name, but doing so will help me to follow up on ideas you may have for future planning.
4. When finished, please place this sheet into the collection basket in the next week or two.  
PLEASE REMEMBER TO FOLD IT INTO QUARTERS TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY.

**Thanks for your participation as we together seek the Lord's help and healing! - Fr. Ferguson**

- A. What might be two or three words which describe your reactions to the events of the last seven months?
- B. Have there been any negative experiences from others (neighbors, co-workers, schoolmates, etc.) that you or your family have faced as a result of the new attention given to the abuse crisis? If so, what are they?
- C. What are your hopes for the future regarding our national bishops and the work of the Vatican Summit?
- D. What do you personally and spiritually need as we together heal from what we've all been through?
- E. Would you find it helpful if we organized an informal "prayer and share" gathering at our parish for the purpose of ongoing healing? Do you have any other ideas for what we could do locally to discuss these issues and heal as we continue our discipleship?

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_