

Good [evening/morning]. I am Doug Fangmeier and I am one of two trustees here at St. Patrick's.

Today I am here to speak concerning an insert in today's bulletin, which was recently mailed to every family in the parish. I'm sure many of you have already received and read it. For those who have not, it discusses the restorative justice fund established by parishes as a response to the lawsuit brought against the Archdiocese by the victim survivors of cleric abuse. Several weeks ago, there was an article in the Catholic Spirit concerning that fund. If you saw it, you would know that the establishment of the fund was a voluntary action by parishes independent of the Archdiocese. A key restriction on this fund is that 100% of the monies contributed to the fund will go to the victims. None will go to attorneys or the Archdiocese.

Several months ago, leadership from St. Patrick's decided to participate in this fund as we are one of the many parishes named in the lawsuit as having occurrences of cleric abuse. The leadership consisted of the trustees, our parish administrator, the finance committee chairman and our former pastor, Father Bob. A significant pledge was made to the fund. All involved in that decision recognized that any pledge would be a difficult amount for our parish. It is the right thing for our parish to do, especially in light of the significant abuse which occurred at St. Patrick's.

In the ten months, which I have been a trustee, I have attended several meetings and learned how extensive the occurrence of abuse had been in our parish, over 30 years ago.

- There were several perpetrators at St. Patrick's.
- There were numerous victims among our youth and young people at St. Patrick's.
- The number of incidents of abuse was extensive at St. Patrick's.

I found this to be deeply disturbing and I am deeply grieved by it.

To our victims and their families, as a trustee on behalf of St. Patrick's, I offer the sincerest apology possible for the atrocities that were committed against you. I cannot imagine the pain which you have suffered. There is little that can be said or done to eliminate that pain. I can tell you that the people of this parish care about you and desire healing in your lives.

To my fellow parishioners, *[reference to homily]*

[5:00: Father Ronkowski spoke of how we must share with others the abundant love given to us by Christ. The victims need our love.]

[9:00: Father Casey referred to those who have lost hope. The victims had hope ripped from them. It is our duty to restore their hope.]

I ask for your participation in fulfilling our pledge and providing a measure of justice and healing to the many victims here at St. Patrick's and throughout the Archdiocese. I urge you to thoughtfully consider what an appropriate financial response from you and your family could be. Starting today and for the next four weeks, a second collection will be taken to contribute towards this fund. If you are prepared to contribute today, please do so. A special envelope for contributions was included in the mailing sent to your home, which you can place in future collections of bring to the business office.

Listening sessions will be held in the Chapel after every mass for the next four weeks. Parish leaders will be there to address any questions or concerns which you may have. All are invited to attend today or at a future meeting.

Thank you and please remember those victims from our parish.