



The Catholic Community of
St. Thomas More

August 19, 2018

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More,

Over the past couple of months, the Church in the United States has been undergoing a difficult time concerning Archbishop McCarrick and the release of the grand jury report in Pennsylvania this week.

Many of you have been angered and outraged by the reports. The same is true for us, your priests. This is a sad time for the Church in the United States. We must recognize the hurt that has been caused and the damage that has been inflicted on the victims and those who love them. We must offer our heartfelt prayers and support for all those affected as well.

Pope Francis has said that the parish church is a field hospital for those who are hurt or broken. We hope that this community of faith is that field hospital for all of you who may be dealing with much pain and discomfort about the Church. We, as a people of God, are in need of healing in our lives. We come here to this parish to be healed, mended, made whole. Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist and provides that healing that we so desperately need.

Darkness has gripped the Church at different times in Her history. This is one of those times. However, we can take comfort that, with prayer, the presence of the Holy Spirit has always restored the Church. This must be our constant prayer today and for the foreseeable future; that the Church—we, the Body of Christ—will be made whole again.

In the weeks to come, we will be publishing a reminder for the parish community of the Safe Environment policies and procedures we have in place in the Diocese of Raleigh and at St. Thomas More for the protection of children.

We would also like to call your attention to the resources that Bishop Robert Barron has placed on wordonfire.org to help the faithful of the Church during this time.

We would like to invite you to think today about the good priests that have been a part of your life and the difference that those priests have made. Maybe it was a priest who offered you mercy in Reconciliation or the priest who came and anointed your mom or dad who was sick. Maybe it was the priest who you welcomed into your life as a friend. There are good priests out there. Personally, we thank you for the love and support you show us each day and it is our privilege to serve you. Please let us know how we can be of help or support to you.

In Christ,

Father Scott McCue
Pastor

Father Chris Koehn
Parochial Vicar