



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO  
Office of the Bishop

September 23, 2018  
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we join together to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time we are confronted once again with a new development in the ongoing scandal regarding past clerical sexual abuse allegations within the Church. This past Friday, September 21, 2018, we learned that the Michigan Attorney General's Office announced Mr. Schuette's intention to conduct an investigation into the handling of clergy sexual abuse allegations by the Catholic Church within the seven dioceses of Michigan, going back as far as 1950. We have released our public statement indicating our commitment to cooperate fully with this investigation. Additionally, as we stated, we welcome the opportunity to review the many and extensive efforts that have been made over these past 16 years since 2002 to protect all God's people. We look forward to learning of any new ways or methods to further enhance all the steps we are already taking.

With this letter I wish to encourage you to continue to join with me first and foremost in prayer. In addition to devoting Tuesdays as Days of Prayer and Fasting, I invite everyone to attend one of the three planned Masses of Reparation and Healing for the Diocese (see schedule below). After each of these Masses will be a time for pastoral conversation. I encourage all to be fully informed of the Church's response and visit our dedicated website which has a wealth of information and resources: [www.protect.diozkoo.org](http://www.protect.diozkoo.org) including "A Plan to Protect" which was released on September 14, 2018, and calls for additional measures.

Together, as the Body of Christ, we will emerge from this time of darkness, even stronger and more equipped into a time of recommitment to protect all children and vulnerable people and to eradicate the evil of sexual abuse from any corner of the Church. May we keep all victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse in our daily prayers for their continued healing. May we also be strengthened in our commitment to be ever-vigilant to protect the most precious and vulnerable among us. May Mary, the Mother of the Church, watch over us and protect us.

Assuring you of my daily prayers, and humbly asking for your prayers for me as well, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo

**Mass of Reparation and Healing Schedule:**

September 30, 2018, 3 p.m.: St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo

October 7, 2018, 3 p.m.: St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek

October 13, 2018, 6 p.m.: St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph