

20 August 2018

(Many people have asked that I send out my comments that I made at the end of all the Masses this past weekend. After Deacon Geoff's homily, and after reading Cardinal Sean's letter, I did a personal reflection. It was not written down. I will try to re-create my words. And I am open to your thoughts on ways to move forward.)

"Once again, I am saddened beyond words for the Church, the people of God.

Since the early 1990's, I have been actively involved in this mess. I reported the misdeeds of five Boston priests to my superiors and suffered much retribution for doing so. I was one of the few Archdiocesan priests who signed the letter calling for Cardinal Law's resignation. Later, I reported Bishop McCormack when he re-assigned one of those five priests in New Hampshire. At the Saint Luke Institute in Maryland, for priests with problems, I was the outside moralist, when I was on faculty at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

Like you, I have to confront the question; why am I still a believer, Catholic and a priest.

The Church that Jesus started has always been a very human church and many very bad events have occurred. Remember we had THREE popes running around in the Middle Ages. There was the Medici's family trying to buy and own the papacy. Yet, in all the very bad history of the Church, that is when many great women and men were called by God to reform the Church. Saint Francis, Catherine of Siena, John of the Cross, Theresa of Avilla, Dominic, Ignatius and many others challenged church leadership and authority to focus back on the people of God and the Sacraments.

So, I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest, because of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is Jesus gift of himself to the Church. I come back to the Eucharist because only the Catholic Church has the real presence of God. At each and every Mass simple gifts of bread and wine become the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest because, like the Blessed Mother, I bring Jesus into the world.

I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest because I know that under Pope Francis and Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the good-old-boys network is finally starting to be dismantled. Pope Francis demanded the entire conference of Bishops in Chile to resign. Under Cardinal Sean all church volunteers have to have CORI background checks yearly and all those working with children need to attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop.

I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest because that is who I am.
I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest because of the Eucharist.

Jesus words in the Gospel are real to me; "Peace be with you", "Do not be afraid", "I am with you always". And when I hold up the host and chalice at Mass, I privately say; "My Lord and my God."

I am a believer, a Catholic and a priest because of the Eucharist.

And here I stand.

And I hope you will stand with me."

Fr. Dave

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