



*Three gatherings were held at Guardian Angels (September 29, October 1 and November 4, 2018) to provide an opportunity for parishioners to speak, to listen, to pray and to consider possible responses to the crisis of abuse and cover-up in the church. To ensure that all comments were captured from the large group sessions, two recorders took notes at each session, attempting to capture all contributions. Individuals in small groups submitted notes from their groups. Note that comments are not edited and that **each thought expressed belongs to the individual who expressed it.** The following questions were offered to prime the pump, but attendees were free to move beyond those questions to offer any other thoughts as they wished:*

#### *Large Group Questions*

- 1. How do these challenging times influence how I participate at Guardian Angels?*
- 2. How am I aware of God in these challenging times?*
- 3. What are my fears and hopes for the Catholic Church? For Guardian Angels?*

#### *Small Group Questions*

- 1. What have you taken away from the large group sharing?*
- 2. What do you need from the community of Guardian Angels?*
- 3. Is there one thing you hope GA might do?*

I heard pain and frustration in the large group sharing.

I need Guardian Angels to do some kind of action that addresses this issue.

I hope that Guardian Angels will go back to having lay preachers and separate from the diocese.

Don't need to destroy the church – fix it!

I heard more questions than answers in the large group. Power controls.

I hope we can get our young family more involved.

Everyone is hurting and wants change.

Bottom up participation. Zero tolerance.

Strongly present Catholic position. Support rule of law.

More participation with St. Andrews in Mahtomedi for Lutheran input and greater knowledge of our social endeavors. Never heard them speak at GA yet we work together.

Withhold money to Catholic Services Appeal and make up the GA rebate with a special collection. Many eager donors.

Don't stifle what I need to hear, what I want and need from the church. Hope we move forward to look for resolution. Call the crime what it is. Go to the police. The impact to those hurt is for life. We are a pilgrim church – we have muddled our way through.

I heard pain, strong faith, church is the people, sharing of younger people.

I need transparency and to be informed about what is being done about the problem. Pedophilia and homosexuality. I hope GA will hang in there and keep up apprised. Where is this information going?

Can't rely on hierarchy – call the cops.

Laity need to exercise leadership, not clerics. Liberal / conservative conflict in hierarchy needs to be solved.

We are the church. Community and sacraments.

Not frightened – concerned. Some people avoid – how to get them involved. People who have left – keep inviting them back.

GA has strong women leaders.

Baptism: priest, prophet and king. We are all priests. Call of baptism – different vocations. Prophets to hierarchy.

Keep doing our ministries and GA keep doing ministries. Can't be just staff or Fr. Rodger. Has to be whole community. The middle has to rise up. Open and welcoming. Jesus spent more time with prostitutes and tax collectors than the hierarchy.

Getting women involved in some way on the altar – homilists. Getting the lay perspective into the community. This has happened in the past at GA but was stopped with the influence of a conservative outside higher-up.

We have to have influence by the people, but we have a hierarchy.

Good old boys hierarchy, established 500-1000 years ago, hasn't changed with the times. In today's world, the people causing the problems, participating, overseeing are removed with these types of problems.

There is a thought that women issue needs to be fixed. Good fixes come from customers (parishioners) and employees. Is their help being solicited?

There is a spirit that needs to move amongst us. We are the body of Christ. The church is going to be revealed by the people. It hasn't been taught that way so that is why we don't see the young involved. If service opportunities existed, it may help. How do we hear the word, how do we react to the word. Younger people do not like the rules of the church – common sense is missing (e.g. no marriage).

We're hearing that people are shopping outside the church. Christians are good people without all the rules.

Within so many topics, there is division that keeps us from hearing one another, listening, valuing contributions. We as parishioners want to be part of the fix.

Are we aware of God's wisdom, do we recognize where he is in our daily activities – if that concept is understood/practiced, we'd be in a better place to understand one another and listen to one another and address these issues.

If we are looking for ideas to participate in the solution, get experts from the community involved, such as experts in child abuse. Should we be putting a list of the type of expertise needed and have them be part of the answer.

What are the next steps? We can't let this be the last step. Some people would want to participate in solution building. There will be a stewardship push in the church soon. This should be a topic that people are solicited for.

Priests allowed to marry.

The church has become a homosexual church.

Take the Bishop to court, prove he knew what was going on.

There are people out there who refuse to believe it happened.

Transparency is needed.

We need direction from the Pope.

Lots of pain. I'm thinking of leaving the church.

Priests cover each other. It's a world issue.

Problems inherently wrong, like more women involved, female priests. Why can't priests marry?

Money is a problem. Hierarchy is keeping everyone in the dark. I believe the church will disappear.

I believe the church will last.

Where are the voices from the women? How about lay preachers again? Why not?

Too many cardinals, too much wealth in the church. I don't feel bad the church had to sell possessions.

When you give people power there is going to be corruption. Not enough checks and balances.

Angry with the system. Accomplice by continuing to work with or for the church.

Poor number here to participate. Might this be a confirmation group activity.

Hebda and Ministry Day recently here, they who know must speak and tell. People protected, all must speak. Want to be proud of being Catholic.

Why are we here? Hierarchy = problem. Mick says "Will the church please rise," what does that mean.

Money talks. Catholic Appeal withholding. GA kickback phased out. Search out other parishes to withhold money. Need to eat or wouldn't be working here. Enhanced Essential 3, don't trust.

Common themes: criminal activity; women in hierarchy, humiliated we don't have women in leadership roles; refer to law enforcement; laity sit in on seminary classes; family experience with church attendance.

Deacon Mick addresses issue.

Lay preachers!

Communal penance – more people attend them than face to face.

What is going on with Fr. Harry? Let's be transparent. Get some rumor control. Resolve now.

This is an aging church.

How can we effectively get into the action.

Bring back lay preachers.

Recruit 2<sup>nd</sup> career priests from widowed or divorced.

What are they teaching in the seminary?

What are the perimeters or resolving inside the church?

How about bringing/inviting retired priests, i.e. Fr. Stan Masloski. Learn about a person who had an addiction, opens the door, different viewpoints.

Recognize no one is a saint. Laity or clergy, we are all sinners.

Let's have some victims of pedophiles – what went on – this is a learning experience. What brings this on: Boy Scouts, military, priesthood – how can we recognize this?

If they could be allowed to be married, would behavior be different?

Please compile all yellow sheets and post in bulletin ASAP! Time is of the essence and we may prevent some poor kids from being abused by another criminal, a priest.

Things in past explode – process followed to go about business – “take care of it” – if things don't change, need grassroots pressure to make sure that happens.

Church wants to protect themselves, say they're going to fix it.

Our church is very active, service oriented, we can make sure we don't put a band aid on it. Put too much into structure, need to remain vigilant.

Can't bury head in the sand. What will you do differently? A lot of pain and disillusionment. At GA we are constantly challenged, in book clubs at GA – hard work – appreciate the opportunity to do that. Grateful for the opportunity to have a voice.

Loss of trust. Who do you trust? Church is a foundation – growing up in a Catholic family, taught to believe what the church says. Surprised at what is acceptable, problem with that.

Will take a monumental change.

Doc about popes through time, recommend all view it – church has been messed up from the top (families, money, power).

Foundation shook.

No youth in church – crisis like this makes church more difficult for young people to join. Very serious challenge – don't know how to make this happen.

Love parents, Catholic education, bible college shook foundation. Why things are the way they are, indoctrination, 4 years in that college environment, never questioned myself, had answers.

Born Catholic, mortal sin not to go to church, community pressure to be at Mass and follow teachings – Vatican II, should have changed slowly, shook foundation. Church led by people, people couldn't handle it. People are going to have to take more charge of their faith.

Need to know where to go – can't rely on 3 bill people – need leadership.

The church is not dealing with the humanity, sexuality of priests. Priest marriage – says it goes back to Jesus – we don't really know. Have married deacons.

Crisis so substantial, we don't know where the church is going to end up.

Would marriage fix? Maybe not. Happening in Cub Scouts, other denominations.

Power thing. Males in power.

Innocence of little children is disappearing.

More supportive of priests who are good leaders – help them. Must be reeling as well – don't want to lose them.

I love our parish. I am tired of feeling that I have to will myself to come here. We had a priest who served at GA and we were not told about his situation. Transparency!

I am glad we are doing this. My heart is so heavy. This community feeds me. If I didn't have GA, I would walk away from the church. Morally, if I stay because it is good here and don't work to change for others, what does that say about me?

The church structure is so powerful, how do we get any reform? I am angry. Bishops and priests vow of obedience. How do you combat that when you see things wrong? How will a priest speak up? How can we?

I am called to teach and I was welcomed here to do that and I will try to stay. I have great sadness because I really thought this had been taken care of and the leaders knew what to do and would do it. They didn't. I am on guard watching all the time. I grieve the church I had. I did RCIA and have an adult faith. I won't give the hierarchy my blind following. It's not right.

I am so sad, I don't feel like this is my church. We are all at different stages of grief. I am also angry . . . as I got dressed this morning to come here, I was so angry.

I grew up in a family where you never questioned the nuns or priests. Never corrected them. Nobody talked about things that happened that were wrong. You couldn't.

Who told us that lay preaching was not allowed here? I want it back.

My wife is going elsewhere. She's left. I am so hurt. I am spending time reading the Bible – Lord, to whom shall we go? I am staying but there needs to be cleansing. We're not going anywhere. This top-down structure pains me the most. The people have to live with the little bits that dribble down. I feel powerless. But I also am feeling some energized feelings.

I know what happened at Vatican II. The windows were opened and air came in. Now I feel that they have been locked shut for so long. Coming together will change things. How do we act together? What can we do?

I remember lay preaching here at GA. Sharing life experiences through the lens of Scripture. Bring it back. We can do that.

I belong here. I love GA. Community is what keeps us together.

I feel invisible, squashed down. We all lose because of it.

Leadership is a charism; it has value if exercised rightly for the common good. Don't let anyone take Vatican II away from you. We have to build each other up. Things change from within. It's why I stay.

Secrets keep us sick. We need the truth. Angry because church hasn't changed. It is up to us to do something.

I am very sad. Time for another reformation? There is no accountability.

I love this parish.

I am curious about what will happen next.

Priests need to be flushed out but these men taught the seminarians. Can't trust the seminary.

Do seminarians understand women? Would they have a better understanding if they were more part of life. Seminarians in my classes treated us like lesser class – did not speak to women at all.

Pope history a mess – Jesus will bring us through it.

Maybe need to rely on open dialogue with other Christian brothers and sisters. All have challenges but can maybe learn from our greater community.

Protestants are much more reliant on Bible – growing up remembering not touching Bible. The Bible was for priests, not in lay person's hands.

Children taught very different than I grew up.

Church is slow to change – needs an earthquake. This is a big earthquake.

Infuriating because there are good priests. Who do you trust?

Make sure it's not glossed over. Remove responsibility from us – needs to go civilly.

Some people's solution is to leave the church – you can't take my faith away from me.

- Came to listen, get a pulse of parishioners' thoughts

- Wasn't expecting action plans
- Action concentrated against hierarchy
- I used to defend church
- I've known too many priests who were abusers
- Hard to trust priests even if you know them
- Adult children won't have anything to do with priests
- Hopeful but this has been going on a long time
- Solution has to come from below
- Appreciated comment that church will stand
- None of my five adult children go to church
- Church is a hard sell
- Used to tell Lutheran father how much I enjoyed mass
- Going to high school in "real world" helped prepare me for future crisis with a priest
- Worked in Catholic church for many years
- Too many priests are on "the list"
- If hierarchy created its own world, then they have their own rules
- Seminarians need to be in real world
- Classmates from grade school became priests who are on the list
- Doubt myself – how was I duped?
- All of society is scary right now
- Church used to be a trusting community
- My kids trust Fr. Rodger and I hope it's safe.
- What are priests providing for the community?
- There are places where this conversation wouldn't be tolerated
- Went to church on weekend after Pennsylvania report, and was shocked that nothing was said
- Heard a deacon say that he's ashamed to be a deacon
- More revelations are going to come from outstate MN
- Try having discussions before/after mass (reach more people)
- Catholic Services Appeal is a positive change, separated from diocese
- At another parish. I once raised money for school computer system, but pastor used it for something else
- Church is "all this crap" but it's also us.
- Adult kids are volunteering and justice-oriented but aren't involved in institutional church
- Church is a vessel to help me be in community
- Church needs to be fulfilling a need
- Childhood church was center of community life. Now there's no center.
- Impressed by Methodist church where teens sometimes plan & lead the services
- People need ownership

- We need to be bold
- When I was young, I liked “gym mass”
- As a kid I learned ritual & hierarchy but not what I could do
- This won’t be the last scandal

Question 1:

- Solidarity – we are loving GA – we are glad of this meeting
- Challenge to go to mass and receive communion and distribute communion
- If we can’t trust, we can’t believe
- Everyone is angry in losing trust with children involved
- Integrity of those in authority there is no shutting that door now
- Imperfect people preaching God’s word means we have to be the checks and balances
- We need more lay people involved
- We are angry and we don’t trust and we want greater checks and balances and we love our church

Question 2:

- Need openness and honesty from GA
- Need to have a stronger faith in our Catholic Church
- GA needs to be a moral compass
- Need to hear a consistent message in homilies and measurable response to heal
- Need to change a culture, a massive activity to address the sexuality of people and of priests
- Need to hear a consistent, open, honest message and a measurable response to heal
- If this can’t happen at GA, then where are we to go?
- Need ongoing meetings

Question 3:

- Take a break from Archdiocese Appeal. Money should be watched where it goes
- Need ongoing meetings and honesty
- Our faith is not shaken; the culture of our authority messed up
- We need to not feel alone
- As imperfect as are, we still belong!

\*\*\*

- Please let’s keep this going
- Very worthwhile 2 hours – have hope that this will continue

\*\*\*

Question 1

- Anger, sadness, helplessness

Question 2

- Options for action to drive change (e.g. Siena Project)

### Question 3

- Post links on website for Siena Project & Sr. Joan Chittister, NCR online
- Communicate back to parishioners

\*\*\*

- Feeling of betrayal and hurt
- Feelings of call to action
- Change power balance
- Spokesman for Pope – no comment because too busy with refugees
- It comes up so often
- Never entered my mind that my children could be molested
- It is exhausting! In the papers again
- No words from staff members in large group – I work for church, I joined the church
- Why do people keep coming?
- Love for this community (GA)
- People are in pain – but it is personal
- Folks may agree on this, even if they may not agree on many things
- Be able to open – what is your pain?
- Sunday – you come and go – how to interact?
- I don't want to put up with "officiousness"
- Coming to worship – be close to the Lord because we love the Lord
- I'm glad for structure in/of the church – can effect change
- Anonymity of church – people may challenge that it's up to us to make a difference
- What am I going to do to change myself?
- How can we be community during the week? Then bring that to Sunday
- We do potlucks as family, but seldom as church
- We are a very active church already – up to everyone to be involved
- Why won't bishops be more transparent? Is it structure? Is it a character trait? Is it naiveté?
- Priests – slots to fill pastorates. Women?
- Our teaching – admit our wrongs
- How do we forgive the wrong-doers?
- How do we make amends?
- Lawsuit doesn't solve anything – does not take pain away
- truth and reconciliation, like South Africa
- Concerned about false accusations
- Parish could be a lot more transparent
- Budget is secretive – it ought to be public, including salaries
- There is a default to secrecy
- Inform before decisions are made
- Culture of collaboration vs culture of obedience
- Secrecy can happen by accident
- Staff, council, community – together!

- We need to see beyond just GA – we should be “yeast” in the diocese

\*\*\*

#### Question 1

- Impressed that long term parishioners came and spoke
- Anger -- Disappointed and disgusted
- Pope Francis needs to speak up
- Power of clergy needs to change
- Community gives hope – progressive
- GA has special homilies and music
- Focus on social justice and doing God’s work

#### Question 2

- We need to talk, continue this dialogue
- Continue to focus on social justice
- More emphasis on open dialogue and Just Faith programs

#### Question 3

- Keep Fr. Rodger!
- Small group dialogue, let people share their anger

\*\*\*

- Seminarians must embrace Vatican II
- We are all at different places in our spiritual journey
- We need many voices – if we leave here, those voices are not heard, We need to hear the truth.
- Sham for our children growing up through the church if truth is not spoken
- Renewed hope through this gathering
- Relationships – most important aspect is trust! When that is gone, how do we get it back?
- Feel powerless with hierarchical structure
- Worry we are going to fix the wrong thing
- Our church is slow to change. Can Francis be our hope?
- We need to hear (from pastor, archbishop, leadership) a synopsis of where we have been, where we are now, and where we (as Catholic Church) are heading as a parish and as an international church
- Reconstitute lay preaching – including women – especially at GA
- Voice of the people need to be heard
- Lay representation on Archdiocesan board needed
- Need more voices of women in leadership roles in the church.
- Anger and sadness and such deep hurt by abuse scandal and the dishonesty of it (expressed by parishioners at meeting today in large group)
- We need changes at the archdiocesan level
- Local parishes need more autonomy

- GA staff is world-class! (No staff in this group either)

\*\*\*

- Dichotomy between Church and church
- GA – continue to grow our strengths
- Can we do anything?
- Great strength in those who spoke - - showed the importance of community at GA
- We agree that something must change but need direction
- We need to be prophets within the church.
- Keep GA together, influence higher up
- People who come from other faiths, or who left another church – listen to them
- Need to talk to bishop Hebda before bishops synod, work with other parishes
- Don't need a complete action
- Bring feelings to mass, parish

\*\*\*

- The narrative of sexual abuse on women in our country is so strong right now and it is sad that one place where they can turn for support is the church that is struggling with this in their background.
- Does this make people disregard prayer because the church is in such turmoil?
- Excluding half the population from leadership means you are missing something
- Allowing women and married men to lead a congregation could help solve some of these problems.
- Secrets are not going to help anyone!
- We realize...
  - We are not alone in our feelings
  - This will take a long time to see a change
  - We have a strong community here at GA that allows people to want to stay in the Catholic church even though they might otherwise leave
- This has been going on too long! – cover-ups and moving priests
- They should be charged and removed!
- We could write a letter to the pope and ask him to break his silence
- We need GA to keep this communication open... Continue to meet and brainstorm ways to make a difference.
- Continue to involve young people in our parish to keep our church community alive and growing.
- We appreciated having small groups to be able to share our story if we didn't feel comfortable to do so as a large group

\*\*\*

- Lack of response – problem from top all the way down
- Major reform needed
- Resources:

- Siena project – how to organize, resources for lay people
- Sr. Joan Chittister NCR highlight – article with template letter
- Archbishop Vigano 11-page
- More democracy of lay people have message heard – lay people should be part of church reform
- Priests, bishops should organize and speak up with voice of lay people demanding reform
- Can GA pull away somewhat from bigger church, bonding with other parishes to push for aggressive reform?
- We need massive reform and it needs to be in our lifetime or church will die
- We need future opportunities, like et cetera group, including all
- We expect GA to take action
- Lay people need a voice – a real voice – not just sharing that goes nowhere
- Also – women priests, married priests and deacons must be considered
- We need to clean house in hierarchy
- No retaliation for members of hierarchy and priests who speak up to help make things better – they should not be punished

The comments were insightful, most everyone has known for years about the issue of clerical abuse of children, now we see that it is our responsibility to do something about it, since clearly the hierarchy cannot. A solution must be from the bottom up, a top-down solution is not possible.

Guardian Angels must address this issue openly. A comparison was made with St. Pat's in Hudson where the pastor spoke out openly about the murderous priest and his embezzler replacement. At GA some of the people attending today had not known UNTIL TODAY that Stan Maslowski had been on restricted ministry while he was at GA. Knowledge is strength, and if we don't have strength in our community, it avails us nothing. We need a strong community with servant leaders who have the best interests of their groups at heart.

In the community, abusers go to jail, in the church they go to confession and are forgiven. But in this case if we forgive we must not forget, and the abuser must be dismissed to be handled by civil law. Perhaps there needs to be a review of the absolute secrecy of confession in the instance of sexual abuse. If a young person confesses the "sin" of being abused by a priest, the one hearing confession should have an obligation to help that victim to take appropriate measures. Or if an abuser confesses, there needs to be some process to intervene.

Felt a resonance with all that was said in the large group- hearing everyone's ideas makes for a strong vision. We hope that many people in the parish will speak out, and that this open forum idea will spread to other parishes. The original church was not a hierarchy. In the teachings of Jesus, the last would be first and the one who wanted to be first would be the servant of the others. At some point the church became completely controlled by a hierarchy - a political system- that answered to no one.

Clearly part of the problem is that there are not enough priests and the hierarchy has had the choice of booting out the bad ones and not having enough priests to be able to

offer sacraments in the accustomed way or keeping them in ministry and destroying the church via abuse of the children. It is time to change the system - if "everyone is clergy" it would cause little problem for the church to rid itself of the bad apples. There is no theological reason to prohibit married men and women from serving as priests - St. Peter was married. This change in the rules would greatly expand the number of candidates. We discussed the benefits of the time when lay preachers served GA very well, and we lost the value of their dedication through the fiat of Archbishop Flynn. Let's fight to get this benefit back, first by convincing our pastor that it makes sense.

The church needs to be made more transparent, Vatican II was a start but not enough. The suggestion has been made that all of us who became Catholics by memorizing the Baltimore Catechism should go to RCIA and find out the current teaching. Trust is not possible without transparency. We at GA can push hard for this improvement. It was interesting to this small group that the people who came here this morning were essentially all elders with a long history at GA, and an evident dedication to GA. If we did not love it so much we would not have attended. We do not want to see OUR GA ruined by the actions of hierarchy. What can we do? The people own the church, but we are vulnerable to the whim of a bishop and to the control of a priest who is assigned. In this archdiocese, the pastor must have a finance council but a parish council is optional! And the parish council, if allowed, is only advisory to the pastor. Would it make sense to change that around, have the parish council accept or reject the assignment of a pastor depending on the background check? We need to have better information about the people who affect us. And by the way, what is the background and status of Father Harry Tasto's disappearance? He is one of the best preachers ever and we miss him.

The only way to clean up this mess is to change the system to put lay people in control of the church.

We feel that the people of GA should openly pray for the strength of Father Rodger Bauman -he must be under a lot of stress at this time in the life of the Church.

How can we get more people to express their feelings about the church? Perhaps we need a drop box similar to the old suggestion boxes.

How does the population of "former Catholics" relate to the population of "current Catholics"?

Have any transgressors faced the legal system or did our church pull a fast one and get away with it?

Does the church see any parallel between the unpunished, illegal activities of the church and the decline in Catholic membership and participation?

We need to give our support to our priests and church employees. They likely feel these church difficulties more than we do as parishioners. We are extremely fortunate to have Fr. Rodger.

Personally, I do not believe the church will heal until the people that made this mess are dealt with by our legal system.

It seems like the church leaders are hiding those that made these transgressions.

Why did the church that discovered these sins simply say “naughty, naughty” and then send that person out to a different parish to do it all over again? Did they even warn the receiving church that they needed to keep an eye on the person transferring in?

We definitely need more open communication with parishioners . . . more transparency. People feel like nothing is being done to resolve this. What is being done?

We need prayer for our GA team.

- America Magazine: 20% of Catholics have not heard a response in their parishes to the crisis. Two brothers may have been abused by a priest. They have died and I never knew if they were ever abused by the priest of my home parish.
- Church must clean up the situation. This has gone on too long. Guardian Angels should be active in this healing. The crisis has not affected my relationship with God. This crisis has ‘stumped’ me as to why this continues to go on. The duration of the crises is disconcerting.
- Has any of the clergy accused allowed to still be involved in active ministry?
- Does the Church cultivate the culture of homosexuality and pedophilia?
- More laity must be involved in moving the Church forward.
- This crisis is a symptom of a bigger problem with the hierarchy. One problem is having an all male clergy. The Church must allow women to have more leadership roles.
- Many abusive priests came from the parish I was involved at as a young parent. Later a young priest, in another parish, said he was told that sexual desires should be simply prayed away. She hopes Guardian Angels can be proactive in responding to the crises.
- I was a student of a priest who has been credibly accused. The information I learned in a class I took on the foundations of the Church now seem as a lie in light of the crises. I love the Church...but do not love the hierarchy. I find it difficult to wrestle with the crises with no resolution. I hope resolution will come soon.
- I am concerned that there will be more and the crisis will continue. The solution cannot be from the top down but from the grass roots. The culture of the Church must be changed. The Church must open ordination to women and no longer demand celibacy for clergy.
- I will not be calling the Church when I have a concern regarding help with my children. I need to know that anyone who is in a vulnerable situation will be told to call the civil authorities. I went to Catholic school and my children also went through Catholic school. I will no longer go to the pastor when I have a concern.

- I wish to support Fr. Rodger. Thank you for the staff for making these discussions happen. I cannot understand why the crisis has gone for so many years. In Hudson there was an article from the pastor...he is committed to going to the police when there is a concern.
- I am not frightened for the Church but concerned. The Church will overcome this crisis. The promise was given to Peter that the Church will prevail. The Church has faced many crises over the centuries. Humans have failed us over the centuries. The Church is more than these people. Even when people fail the Church, the Church has prevailed. The Church will get through this. The Church remains. It will take people from all areas of the Church to correct things.
- The term “cognitive dissonance” has been forefront in my mind. I love the Church but humiliated that we do not have women leaders.
- The crisis has gone on far too long. We are the Church. The hierarchy must be contained. The church I grew up no longer exists due to bankruptcy. It is hard to explain the crises to my children who do not attend. They ask, “why attend?” We have a hierarchy of criminals.
- There is no difference in the different institutions in our society...all have faced individuals who have committed sexual crimes. The clergy involved in illegal activities must be treated as criminals. Anyone accused must be removed and they must go.
- I have always held priest and religious in high regard. My kids are no longer involved in the Church. The Church must continue. How are we going to continue without the young people in our community?
- The Catholic Church, in particular Guardian Angels, is welcoming. I grew up in a Lutheran home. After I married, I taught preschool here at Guardian Angels, but I was still Lutheran. I still taught and it has been wonderful. Because the Church has been so welcoming this has been a wonderful thing. I just love the Church. But I do have a concern that there is a battle between conservatives and liberals in the Church.

Quote – the first lesson a child learns is trust.

The settlement isn't enough, doesn't demonstrate transparency

Angry because Stan Maslowski served here without us being informed that he was under ministerial restrictions

Tired of having to will myself to come to mass

Want parish to genuinely reflect needs of parishioners

Glad we're meeting

Have a heavy heart

Love parish – feeds me

Look at worldwide church – feel like if I wasn't at GA I'd walk away

If I stay, what am I saying?

What can we do? Church is powerful

Vow of obedience shouldn't override moral fiber  
For serious reform, all people need a voice

Came to GA because old parish got pre-Vatican II priest  
Always on guard – great sadness  
I thought abuse was being taken care of  
Fool me once, shame on you, Fool me twice, shame on me  
On guard, watching all the time  
Does hierarchy want our blind following?  
Grieving the church I know – had an adult faith  
Happy to hear others speaking today  
Came late this morning because I was angry  
Lutheran friend asked to visit GA – I'd like to bring her, but I don't want her to ask about  
"crap" – I don't want to defend church  
I come because of personal faith

50 years in parish – grew up never questioning priests and nuns  
Things happened, but nobody talked  
At Hudson parish, where there were lots of problems (including embezzling priest),  
pastor said these are criminal activities and go to the police; I thought this was good and  
healthy

In parish since 1982, catholic all my life  
2 priests and 2 nuns in family  
Think spouse wants to go elsewhere for church  
Uncle who's a priest said "a third of the stars" will be washed away (meaning priests)  
Reading the bible – John 6:68, To whom shall we go?  
Leave Catholic church? No way; I'm staying.  
Cleansing needed, need to know bible more  
Want to be part of a Catholic group that studies the bible  
Let the church be cleansed; it will be stronger

45 years in parish – not going anywhere  
What pains most is the top-down structure  
Feel powerless  
Thinking of Vatican II – things crumbled because the leader insisted  
Windows were opened, but now closed  
Feel energized by coming together  
It might change things  
Do I want to be an activist?  
Let's do something – but what?  
What baby steps can we take?  
The Council of the Baptized did research on lay preaching – I remember it was so  
refreshing here, our real brothers & sisters drawing from their experience  
Maybe if enough people work together on this, and accountability...  
Thought of switching to Lutheran church, but it's always the community that keeps us  
together

27 years in parish – gone through tons of upsetting feelings

Two places should feel safe – home and church  
What about the most vulnerable children? Do some people think they're not important?  
When people feel invisible, their personhood is squashed, and the whole society loses  
I appreciate this gathering  
We can't change the big church, but we can change our own place  
Quote from English bishop – "When I was young, I wanted to change the world... my country.. my community, but if I had changed myself I could have changed the world"  
Thankful for all who are here.

41 years in parish – "not a model Catholic"  
Vatican II taught us that we are the church  
Quote – priesthood isn't what gets me in the door; baptism does  
Owe each other respect & dignity  
Gifts are for building community  
Including gift of leadership when necessary  
Quote from Methodist pastor – envies Catholics because leadership can limit toxic influences  
My brother is a priest – currently serving a parish that was wounded  
Thanks Fr. Rodger for being here  
Don't let anyone take Vatican II away  
Bishop serves the servants of God, and we serve each other

I stay because of community  
And because change needs to come from within

I left here because of Fr. Stan (Maslowski)  
I had lost what I had found at GA  
Just found out this morning about his ministerial limitations  
I work with chemical dependency, and most clients have history of abuse as children  
I was hopeful about pope Francis but my view has changed  
Secrets keep us sick  
I'm angry because we haven't changed – it's up to us  
Time for another reformation?  
I'm sad  
All are created in the likeness of God  
If wrong-doers don't have consequences, there will be no change

I love this parish  
My goal today is to find out what happened to Fr Harry Tasto  
Praying to God for pope Francis  
Matthew 6 and Luke 2 – people in power who "pervert children" should have a millstone around their neck

- Came to listen, get a pulse of parishioners' thoughts
- Wasn't expecting action plans
- Action concentrated against hierarchy
- I used to defend church
- I've known too many priests who were abusers

- Hard to trust priests even if you know them
- Adult children won't have anything to do with priests
- Hopeful but this has been going on a long time
- Solution has to come from below
- Appreciated comment that church will stand
- None of my five adult children go to church
- Church is a hard sell
- Used to tell Lutheran father how much I enjoyed mass
- Going to high school in "real world" helped prepare me for future crisis with a priest
- Worked in Catholic church for many years
- Too many priest are on "the list"
- If hierarchy created its own world, then they have their own rules
- Seminarians need to be in real world
- Classmates from grade school became priests who are on the list
- Doubt myself – how was I duped?
- All of society is scary right now
- Church used to be a trusting community
- My kids trust Fr. Rodger
- What are priests providing for the community?
- There are places where this conversation wouldn't be tolerated
- Went to church on weekend after Pennsylvania report, and was shocked that nothing was said
- Heard a deacon say that he's ashamed to be a deacon
- More revelations are going to come from outstate MN
- Try having discussions before/after mass (reach more people)
- Catholic Services Appeal is a positive change, separated from diocese
- At another parish. I once raised money for school computer system, but pastor used it for something else
- Church is "all this crap" but it's also us.
- Adult kids are volunteering and justice-oriented but aren't involved in institutional church
- Church is a vessel to help me be in community
- Church needs to be fulfilling a need
- Childhood church was center of community life. Now there's no center.
- Impressed by Methodist church where teens sometimes plan & lead the services
- People need ownership
- We need to be bold
- When I was young, I liked "gym mass"
- As a kid I learned ritual & hierarchy but not what I could do
- This won't be the last scandal

Thank you to leadership. Saw a survey that only 20% had heard about the crisis from their church. 30-35 years ago family befriended a priest. Saw about 15 years ago that priest was an abuser. Never asked her brothers if the priest abused them before her brothers died.

Clean up the situation. It is taking too long. Wants GA to be active in work to move forward. My relationship with God is not affected. Typically decisive in business. Wondering why it is going so long and not being addressed. Still in here because cannot believe the duration.

Don't like what I am hearing. Some put head in the sand and don't care because it doesn't affect them. What about the statute of limitations, names of priests, are there still priests in their positions.

Wondering what about the culture of the Catholic Church is fostering homosexuality and pedophilia.

Hierarchy has not been able to handle this. Need lay people. Need powers that be to see lay people are valuable.

Bigger problem is all male hierarchy not \_\_\_\_\_ to church (*this point seems very important but couldn't make out what was in the blank*). My daughters cannot be priests. I pray that we allow women priests, but don't think the change will come in my lifetime.

When was a young parent names that were released came from the parish they attended. This parish knowingly allowed predator priests. One priest told me I was a sensitive woman because I advocated for my daughter and asked a question. Moved to another city where young priest talked about having sexual desires but told to throw it away and go to confession. I like GA. I hope we can be proactive.

Grad school at UST. Had 2 classes with a perpetrator priest – Catholic Studies. It was the foundation of my degree but it feels like a lie because he was the teacher. Love the church not the hierarchy. It's a struggle. Love the liturgy. Hard to wrestle with this when it is without resolution.

Concern that we are not seeing the end. – Pennsylvania, Ireland. Does it go to the Vatican? Need not top down but bottom up solution. Culture of the church needs to change. Ordination of women would bring change.

Grassroots suggestion I am living by. Will not be calling the parish for needs of my child or family – or concern to the pastor who will refer to the Archdiocese. If I have a concern I should call the police. Wants Archdiocese out of the picture. Product of a mom who advocated for me. Need a solution that is simple and immediate. It's not over. Children aren't going to go to an HR department to go to the police. Thank you for opening this dialogue.

Was here on Saturday. Came again. Appreciate Dianne and Suzanne. This is tied to stewardship. It's been going on for years. Important that we go to the police. Different spiritual leaders including a priest elsewhere are committed to going to police.

I am not frightened. Concerned. Peter on this rock, gates of hell will not prevail. Hold him to it. Not 1<sup>st</sup> time in church that humans have failed. Book from Richard O'Brien at Notre Dame. Pope John 12 pope at age 18 and died of stroke in married woman's bed. Humans have failed us. Belief, sacraments, liturgy, tradition, it is more than people. Even when people failed us, church continues. Even with clowns, church remains. I am not frightened. I am concerned. It is up to us to see things are corrected.

Cognitive dissonance. I love my job. I feel like I work for a criminal organization. I love mass. I am humiliated that we don't have women priests.

We talked about crisis. Not clear on what definition is. High school 1962 the QB became a priest and his sister a nun. They left their vocations because of this in the 1960s. Problems with priests up to popes throughout time. I argue the Church is us. Needs to be legal action. My mom was a convert with a strong protestant Irish background. Hard to explain this to a non-Catholic. Neither of my kids are in the church. It's tough but hard to argue with them. We have a hierarchy of criminals.

Worked in family law and in Supreme Court in MN. No difference. People are people. Priesthood compares to army. Don't know the answers. God loves the victims. Dealt with them in family law. Have to deal with them as criminals. Call the cops. Love my religion. Deeply rooted. Kids and siblings don't go to mass. For those who ask Why do you go? I ask them who do they have as their personal savior. Need to deal with this in court system.

Oldest of 12 raised in Catholic environment and school. Priests and nuns were looked up to. People around me are church. Older people here. Kids aren't here. Need to have a place for us. How can we have church without kids.

One thing has always been for me that church has welcomed me. Especially GA. Grew up conservative culture at home. Got married had 3 boys. When youngest was in preschool someone asked for me to help with class, but I was Lutheran. Was asked, don't we believe in the same God? Church is welcoming. Conservative views of the church has always welcomed me and my grandchildren. Love the church.

#### **November 4 Addendum:**

This issue is definitely in people's minds and hearts. Still waters do run deep.

We need transparency. We are the church and we need opportunities to be involved.

GA should continue to dialogue. Keep the coals hot!

Opportunities to share. Even within our own parish there are people impacted personally by clergy sexual abuse. Church does not police itself well.

We need more education about what the church is doing to address this. Specifically what priests are being taught at the seminary.

Can GA have a vehicle to help us communicate concerns and ideas to the bishop?

Recovery of the church will take a long time. We need to educate parents and work with children.

How do we bring together the divisions within the church? Get politics out of the church. There are people who tend to have a one side or other extreme.

We want justice and healing for the victims but also hope this issue opens a gateway for greater change in the church for women.

An opportunity to act with urgency to display radical trust in the church's people is being missed.

Concept from Richard Rohr of order – disorder – reorder. We can't go back to order yet. We need to look to the future to determine what is the reorder that will address the hurt caused by the cover up and also look at ways to change the old order to prevent this from continuing and happening again.

We need to think differently and bring people back to the church together.

How can we support victims at our parish?

We need more daylight. What are the plans at the archdiocese to prevent this in the future?

We can do workshops on how to remain faithful Catholics, we can pray for the victims, we can pray for the people who struggle with their faith because of the crisis.

Our parish advocates for more disclosure and a follow-up on past allegations.

We need thorough, outside review and disclosure in detail to the parish. We need facts.

What is going on with Fr. Harry? The lack of transparency is unfair to him and to our parishioners.

We need visible changes that are communicated and felt by the parishioners.

More training to youth and to the parish at large.

We need oversight by a group of laypeople. We didn't know what was going on. I am pondering the thought that we own this. I was thinking the clergy owned this.

We are the church. We have failed our children. How do we change the church so this doesn't happen?

We need more outrage about this. Why is there no outrage?

I wonder about new priests. What are they being taught? What kind of training are they getting? Are we getting closer to not idolizing them?

I think lay people need to have more oversight. A group of lay people...we didn't know what was going on...

We own this. Two issues: one is getting a lot of attention. The abuse. You hear a lot and hear that a lot has been done. The other. How this was not seen as an issue by those in power. Accepting the challenge that we are the church, it is something we need to pay attention to.

Make it known that this is a crime. Don't go to the church...go to the police.

I worked my career in the criminal justice system. Not sure how incidences come to light...but my experience is that there are bad apples in any profession. If you sexually abuse a child, it is a crime. We didn't know about this going on. I'm concerned that the church has been so 'photographed' while other faith communities also have this issue. The criminal justice system helps people. Counseling, retribution. Priests are not above the law.

Very hard for me....appreciate that we are getting to this point. I am a victim in this archdiocese. There is no interest in the church finding out the truth. Sending out letters. Offering three counseling sessions. Nothing more. I doubt I was his only victim. Other 14, 15, 16 year old girls. They are not interested in pursuing the truth. It is a huge failure...church at large, but definitely a failure of leadership. they will not respond until there is a lawyer involved. Why should I have to hire a lawyer? There is no outreach. Maybe a victim advocate...may not be there anymore. Is three sessions all they can offer? The church has taken steps but they have not looked hard and deep enough. No healing until the pain is acknowledged. I still see it as a closing of the ranks.

I think the issue goes deeper than the clergy. The family had to know. I came from a large family. I thought my younger brother was abused. Parents had to know. I was saying mass as a 8, 9 year old. At age 12, I was abused. Part of priest training. My family had to know. Life went on. I have a nice family. But in recent years it is coming back. I finally wrote the whole thing down. I got a call before I married to drive the priest to Florida. Mom says, "I just saw pastor Paul and was delighted that my son is driving pastor to retirement in Florida!" She did not have a clue. My father would have shot the priest if he had known. In the late 90's I tried to sue, but it was thrown out. Read on the retirement that this retired priest was caught in a public bathroom at a bus station. Story about his mother...pastor Paul told him some truth. Wrote a letter to bishop of Superior. Reply from a deacon there was, ".happy to hear you had a full, happy life...." I didn't want to sue the church. I love my church. I love this church. It goes deeper than the priests. My dad is so religious. He never knew. In the end my mother knew...Thank you for listening.

I wonder about the new priests. I look at their pictures and think about their future. What is their calling? What is their training like? How do they avoid situations where things could be misconstrued? I look at their faces and wonder if I can trust them. What has he been taught? It is a whole area that we do not know about.

I have a different perspective. I was raised Lutheran. Join church after Vatican II. Surprised to see how much on a pedestal a priest was held. Priests were considered God's representative. Priests would come to house as an honored guest. Suppose a child comes to a parent...the parent would say they made it up. Maybe we are moving closer to that priests are common people and not elevated. We have a problem: "We don't have many priests...we cannot turn them into the

cops.” I have not seen good accountability going all the way. Even in our archdiocese - it was looking after the reputation of the church...cover up. A young priest in Hudson was moved to another parish - where he ultimately killed himself. I was the PPC chair and it was traumatic. I no longer trust hierarchy. We need a much better way for accountability all the way up. Teach parents to listen to children. A lot of things need to be fixed...accountability for sure.

I think there is a lot of truth in what you change about hierarchy. Not sure what changes have been made. I should look into it. These organizations are run by human beings. We need the right checks and balances. We all have responsibilities. We are taking this by being here today. We need to find out what changes have been made. There is a lot of hurt and anger. Many can no longer come to church because of this. Healing will be a long process. What is my part in helping?