

Healing, Reconciliation, and Hope Task Force
University of Scranton, 2018-20
Final Report
20 May 2021

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Background

When the present-day clerical sex abuse scandal broke open in Boston in early 2002, people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, were horrified at the extent of the sexual abuse perpetrated upon so many innocent children. They were equally scandalized at the extent of the historic cover-up by the bishops, diocesan administrators, and religious superiors who were more interested in hiding the sex abuse perpetrated by their priests than they were in the safety of children and the healing of survivors. It became clear to many, both inside and outside the Church, that there was need for a major overhaul of the way the Church and its institutions dealt with sexual predators among the clergy and the process by which crimes were, and too often were not, reported to local law enforcement officials.

In the summer of 2002, the Catholic Bishops of the United States gathered in Dallas, Texas to discuss the problem of clerical sexual abuse. As a result of that meeting, the USCCB endorsed the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which addresses creating a safe environment for children, healing of survivors, cooperation with law enforcement, and punishment of offenders. It also establishes a National Review Board staffed by laity. The *Dallas Charter* was updated in 2005, 2011, and 2018, and then in 2019 Pope Francis issued *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*, which establishes norms and procedures for the global Church and begins to address the method by which bishops can be held accountable for cover-up or negligence.

Those are important steps, but a true accounting of the Church's crimes has been obscured by the lack of transparency from many bishops and diocesan administrators. Indeed, investigations by law enforcement agencies and grand juries across the nation continue to uncover sexual malfeasance from abusive clergy towards children and vulnerable adults. There remains a need for a full accounting of the many and varied ways the Church has been complicit in the crime of sexual abuse and its concealment.

In 2016 the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania convened a grand jury to investigate seventy years of Catholic clergy sex abuse and its concealment throughout the state. In their introductory comments, the grand jurors report:

We, the members of this grand jury, need you to hear this. We know some of you have heard some of it before. There have been other reports about child sex abuse within the Catholic Church. But never on this scale. For many of us, those earlier stories happened someplace else, someplace away. Now we know the truth: it happened everywhere. We were given the job of investigating child sex abuse in six dioceses [Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and

Scranton] – every diocese in the state except Philadelphia and Altoona-Johnstown, which were the subject of previous grand juries. These six dioceses account for 54 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties. We heard the testimony of dozens of witnesses concerning clergy sex abuse. We subpoenaed, and reviewed, half a million pages of internal diocesan documents. They contained credible allegations against over three hundred predator priests. Over one thousand child victims were identifiable, from the church’s own records. We believe that the real number – of children whose records were lost, or who were afraid ever to come forward – is in the thousands. Most of the victims were boys; but there were girls too.

After briefly describing some of the horrific things done to children, the jurors continue:

While each church district had its idiosyncrasies, the pattern was pretty much the same. The main thing was not to help children, but to avoid “scandal.” That is not our word, but theirs; it appears over and over again in the documents we recovered. Abuse complaints were kept locked up in a “secret archive.” That is not our word, but theirs; the church’s Code of Canon Law specifically requires the diocese to maintain such an archive.

Finally, in the conclusion of the report, the grand jurors emphasize:

We’re not sure this should even have to be said, but we’ll say it anyway: this investigation is not an attack on the Catholic faith. Many of us, the grand jurors, are practicing Catholics. Many of the people we heard from, victims and witnesses, are Catholics. If anything we feel aligned with, not opposed to, the members of that faith. Child abuse, after all, is not just illegal; it is against the creeds of every major religion, including Catholicism. People of all faiths and of no faith want their children to be safe. But we were presented with a conspicuous concentration of child sex abuse cases that have come from the church.

Origin of the Task Force

In August 2018, the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report was released to the public. The Diocese of Scranton, in which the Catholic and Jesuit University of Scranton is located, was directly implicated in some of the most egregious details of abuse, concealment, and neglect. Within a few weeks of the report’s release Fr. Scott Pilarz, SJ (1959-2021), 24th and 27th president of the University of Scranton, gathered an *ad hoc* committee of administrators, faculty and staff members, alumni, and students, to discuss possible courses of action. He specifically proposed recommending to the Board of Trustees that the University rescind honorary degrees and rename campus buildings that recognized Bishops Jerome D. Hannan, J. Carroll McCormick, and James C. Timlin, each of whom the Grand Jury Report identified as having placed children in harm’s way and as having concealed crimes of priests and others in the diocese. The *ad hoc* committee approved Fr. Pilarz’s proposal, and the Board of Trustees accepted his recommendation. As part of the discussion within the *ad hoc* committee there arose a sense that the University of Scranton ought to do more than rescind degrees and rename buildings. Fr. Pilarz agreed, and he decided to form a 13-member Task Force on Healing, Reconciliation, and Hope composed of key administrators, members of the faculty and staff, and students to take responsibility for the University’s primary response to the issue.

In October 2018, Fr. Pilarz asked Christian Krokus, then Chair of the Theology/Religious Studies Department, and Patricia Tetreault, Vice President of Human Resources, to accept appointments as co-chairs of the Task Force, which they did. The other members of the Task Force, also selected by Fr. Pilarz, were (in alphabetical order) Gerianne Barber (Director, Counselor Training Program), Julia Betti (Undergraduate Student), Steven Browning (Graduate Student), Julie Schumacher Cohen (Assistant Vice President, Community and Government

Relations), Debra Pellegrino (Dean, Panuska College of Professional Studies), Lauren Rivera (Assistant Vice President, Student Life and Dean of Students), James Roberts (Chair, Department of Sociology/Criminal Justice), Fr. Patrick Rogers, SJ (Executive Director, Jesuit Center), Rose Sebastianelli (Professor, Operations & Information Management), Patrick Tully (Chair, Department of Philosophy), and Helen Wolf (Executive Director, Campus Ministries). Although she was not formally appointed to the Task Force, Elisa Tuffy (Specialist, Human Resources) was essential as an assistant and logistical coordinator. Joining the Task Force at its first official meeting on 19 October 2018, Fr. Pilarz gave the members their charge, an adapted version of which he would soon announce to the campus:

As they begin their task, I charge them to chart the path toward healing and hope, ever mindful of the gifts of the Holy Spirit – Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear the Lord. Each of these gifts will be essential to the success of our collective efforts to address the sensitive, complex and daunting challenge that lies ahead.

The Task Force will help us harness the full range of resources that The University of Scranton, as a Catholic and Jesuit university can offer the church in this painful but pivotal moment. Their work will imagine and plan how we can respond, in ways both simple and sophisticated, to the needs of God's people.

While I do not want to preempt or prescribe the work of the Task Force, I do urge them to approach their work as members of a university community. Typically, universities respond to such complex issues through lectures, visiting professors, symposia and other academic endeavors. I imagine they will also engage the University's pastoral and spiritual resources by inviting us to prayer, reflection and listening. In addition, I would urge all members of the community to reach out and share ideas with the members of the Task Force.

Now more than ever, we need the Spirit's inspiration to sustain us in this difficult moment. Moreover, we need the Spirit's inspiration to help us seek and find a possible and plausible future for ourselves, our University and our church.

At that first meeting, many members expressed both gratitude for the University's commitment to addressing the issue of clergy sexual abuse and its concealment but also trepidation and feelings of being under-qualified and under-informed to tackle such a serious and sensitive matter.

Method of the Task Force

From 2018-20 the whole Task Force met roughly on a monthly basis during the fifteen-week academic semesters. The co-chairs regularly met with each other between meetings and periodically with Fr. Pilarz to apprise him of the progress of the Task Force. Smaller teams also met both in preparation for particular events and then to debrief after the events. For the 2019-20 academic year, the Task Force broke into smaller programming committees: Academic/Artistic, Pastoral, and Active. The Task Force organized and hosted twelve events and conducted a campus-wide survey. It completely organized two more events that were canceled when COVID-19 caused the campus to close in Spring 2020. The Task Force communicated all events to the entire campus community via e-mail, and a website was established for posting event information as well as for providing some official civil and ecclesial documents, lists of credibly accused individuals, and support resources for survivors and other affected individuals. Since the conclusion of the Task Force's official charge, Helen Wolf and Christian Krokus have served as liaisons from the University of Scranton to the Taking Responsibility Initiative at Fordham

University, which is sponsoring research and coordinating efforts at Jesuit institutions of higher education on clergy sexual abuse and its concealment. During Summer and Fall 2020, several Task Force members also agreed to be interviewed by a scholar who is writing an article on Jesuit university responses to the abuse crisis that will be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

The University as a Source of a Reconciled Life

When the university is conceived as a project of social transformation, it moves towards the margins of human history, where it finds those who are discarded by the dominant structures and powers. It is a university that opens its doors and windows to the margins of society. Alongside them comes a new breath of life that makes the efforts of social transformation a source of life and fulfilment.¹

The 36th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus (2016) was an invitation to focus on the mission of the universities from a companionship perspective. As an apostolate of the Society of Jesus, the University of Scranton is called to seek justice and reconciliation in all areas of human interactions. In the establishment of the Task Force on Healing, Reconciliation, and Hope, Fr. Scott Pilarz, SJ was inspired by the remarks of Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus:

Our educational apostolates at all levels, and our centers for communication and social research, should help form men and women committed to reconciliation and able to confront obstacles to reconciliation and propose solutions. The intellectual apostolate should be strengthened to help in the transformation of our cultures and societies.²

As Pope Benedict XVI recalled in his visit to Havana, Cuba in 2012: “Each human being has to seek the truth and choose to follow it when he or she finds it, despite the potential sacrifices involved.”³ This has been particularly important as our university community, our “Royal Family,” has sought a deeper understanding of, and truth-telling about, the sex abuse crisis and the proper path forward in order for justice and reconciliation to be fully given to and experienced by each and every victim of child sex abuse. The programming of the Task Force on Healing, Reconciliation, and Hope was but one step in that process.

Clerics from the Society of Jesus and from the Diocese of Scranton engaged in sexually abusive behavior toward children and vulnerable adults. Most of these men committed their crimes elsewhere, but some perpetrated abuse here on our campus.⁴ The members of the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus (formerly the Maryland, New York, and New England Provinces) are committed to creating and maintaining safe environments for all children and vulnerable adults with whom they interact and who are involved in the Province’s ministries. They have adopted standards of conduct for all members as well as procedures for investigating

¹ Arturo Sosa, SJ. (10 July 2018). “The University as a Source of a Reconciled Life.” Address given at the world Meeting of Universities entrusted to the Society of Jesus. Loyola, Spain: 2

² Sosa, “University as a Source”: 3

³ Pope Benedict XVI. (28 March 2012). Homily at Holy Mass. Plaza de la Revolución José Martí, Havana, Cuba.

⁴ For a list of credibly accused Jesuits from the Maryland and (now) USA East provinces, visit <https://www.jesuitseast.org/about-us/protecting-children/>. For a list of credibly accused priests from the Diocese of Scranton, visit <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/child-protection-victim-assistance/credibly-accused-individuals/>

and reporting any allegations of abuse or misconduct to the appropriate civil authorities.⁵ We recognize that abuse of any kind causes lasting pain and damage for the abused, their families and friends, and for their wider communities. With prayer and compassion, we must continue to offer concrete support to all survivors of abuse and strive to make sure the sins and crimes of the past are not repeated.

Review of Events

In their planning and execution of events, Task Force members sought to create spaces in which important and difficult questions and topics could be raised and examined with the hope of fostering critical and creative engagement by participants. In doing so they intended to keep front and center three concerns. First, they intended to exercise solidarity with survivors of clergy sexual abuse by highlighting, learning from, and supporting survivors either as guest speakers, as colleagues on campus, or as attendees at sponsored events. Second, as members of a university they emphasized the necessary role for understanding before proposing solutions. Third, they maximized the potential for campus and community involvement by targeting specific constituencies, inviting speakers from across the Catholic Church's ideological spectrum, and by striking a balance between pastoral and intellectual dimensions. A brief description of every sponsored event follows.

November 27 – December 07, 2018

Electronic Survey: Geri Barber, Patrick Rogers SJ, and Rose Sebastianelli designed a campus-wide survey about how the Task Force should proceed in terms of programming. It was disseminated electronically and it remained available for the dates mentioned above. The survey was reviewed and analyzed in January 2019; see below for details.

November 28, 2018 (originally scheduled for November 16)

Royal Input at 5:30 p.m. in the DeNaples Campus Center, Room 405: The Task Force held a feedback session with students about what concerns they thought it should address. The event was moderated by Steven Browning and Julia Betti. Helen Wolf, Geri Barber, and Lauren Rivera assisted with planning. Having been postponed because of inclement weather, only seven students plus the moderators attended. Several questions were asked of attendees: What brought you here? Does anyone know anything about the Grand Jury Report, or what the University has done so far? What do you think the University might do – programs, etc.? Has your faith been impacted? Have you heard what other students are saying/feeling? What should we take back to the larger Task Force? What would you like to see in the future?

December 02, 2018—

Universal Prayers—Clerical Sexual Abuse: At the direction of Dr. Helen Wolf, Campus Ministries has arranged for the regular offering of petitionary prayers at Sunday Mass in relation to justice and healing for survivors of clergy sex abuse. Examples include: *That all victims of clerical sexual abuse, their families and friends, and all whose lives have been damaged*

⁵ In the United States the policies and procedures implemented by the Society of Jesus regarding response to survivors, prevention, response to allegations, and supervision are accredited through independent audits by Praesidium, Inc. For information about the adopted standards (2020) and about the continuing education every Jesuit in the U.S. undertakes in relation to creating safe environments for minors, visit <https://www.jesuits.org/about-us/protecting-children/>.

immeasurably by this abuse, may be healed by the hand of Christ; That our bishops and leaders of religious institutions may acknowledge by word and gesture repentance for past failures in responding to sexual abuse and bring comfort and healing to victims.

December 05, 2018

Staff and Faculty Roundtable at 12:00 p.m. in Brennan Hall, Room 509: The Task Force held a feedback session with faculty/staff to hear their ideas and concerns relative to the work of the Task Force. Around 30 people attended. Attendees were assigned to small groups, each with a facilitator, where they discussed the following questions in a structured manner: From your perspective, what would help foster healing for those who were abused, the Church, campus, and the broader community? What, in your view, is the most important topic or issue related to the clergy sexual abuse crisis on which the Task Force should focus? The session was moderated by Julie Schumacher Cohen.

January 2019

Survey Analysis: Several Task Force members examined, coded, and analyzed the feedback collected via listening sessions and a campus-wide survey. 237 faculty and staff members responded to the survey. In addition to multiple-choice questions, the survey contained five open-ended questions: How are you feeling about the Church's response to the Clergy sexual abuse scandal? (116 responses), How has the Clergy sexual abuse scandal affected your faith? (111 responses), From your perspective, what would help foster healing for those who were abused, the Church, campus and the broader community? (308 suggestions), What, in your view, is the most important topic or issue related to the Clergy sexual abuse crisis on which the Task Force should focus? (183 responses), What kinds of activities and/or initiatives might be particularly helpful to achieve healing? (217 suggestions). Having combed through the data, members identified key themes to be addressed and several major means for addressing them. The themes that respondents recommended the Task Force pursue and the means for doing so became the organizing principles for the work going forward and are listed here.

Themes: The effects of sexual trauma on survivors; Church policies and responses to sexual abuse at the diocesan and universal levels; Clericalism as a contributing theological and cultural factor; The spiritual and moral authority of the Church in the wake of the Grand Jury Report; Justice for survivors of sexual abuse and the possibility of reconciliation.

Means: Education through talks, panels, and open fora; Direct means of support for survivors and prevention of abuse; Dedicated prayer, liturgies, and other religious rituals.

February 26, 2019

Gathering Session at 4-5:30 p.m. in the DeNaples Campus Center, Room 405: The Task Force hosted an open-ended and private discussion for those on campus directly and indirectly affected by clergy sexual abuse. It was open to all campus constituencies. Around 20 people attended, and they included staff, faculty members, and graduate and undergraduate students. The goals included having people leave the event feeling heard, having learned something, and feeling motivated or inspired to act. The event was staffed with representatives from the Counseling Center, and it was moderated by Geri Barber.

April 03, 2019

Prayer service for survivors of clergy sexual abuse, for their advocates, and for our wounded Church on the Dionne Green: This day-long event included communal prayers at 8:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 4:15 p.m. A fellowship luncheon of soup and bread was offered following the 12:00 p.m. prayer. The event was led by Helen Wolf and Patrick Rogers, SJ, but many of the prayers and the day's program were designed by students.

April 10, 2019

Clergy Sexual Abuse and Betrayal Trauma: Facing the Harm and Facilitating Healing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Leahy Hall Room 235: A presentation by Dr. Christine Courtois (researcher, clinical psychologist, and author) and David P. Nolan (survivor of clergy sexual abuse and peer-counselor in the Archdiocese of Boston). Around 50 people attended, including students, faculty, staff, and community residents. Before the public lecture, Courtois also met with students at the Jane Kopas Women's Center and spoke to a section of PSYC 361: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. At the evening lecture Courtois presented research on the life-long suffering that survivors experience, the compounding of trauma when the Church conceals the crimes of its members and refuses to treat survivors with appropriate dignity, some similarities between clergy sexual abuse and incest, and the rippling of trauma beyond the survivor to family members, partners, friends, and the community. Nolan explained by way of personal witness the devastating and lifelong effects of clergy sexual abuse for a survivor's personal health, relationships, and career. He also offered the possibility of hope, healing, and even compassion. When asked about the efforts of Catholic bishops today, he remarked: "I think of these guys like the disciples in the Upper Room after the crucifixion of Jesus. They're scared as Hell and don't know what to do."

April 25, 2019

Take Back the Night: Task Force members offered the opportunity for participants at this annual signature campus event to write notes of support for survivors of clergy sexual abuse and delivered them to Dr. Courtois and Mr. Nolan. Around 100 notes were collected.

July 26-28, 2019

Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP): Co-chair Christian Krokus attended the annual meeting in Alexandria, VA and reported back to the Task Force. He also met with University of Scranton alumna, Maureen Roden, who serves on the SNAP Board of Directors.

September 16, 2019

Clergy Sexual Abuse: Insights from History and Theology from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Leahy Hall, Room 235: A presentation by Dr. Massimo Faggioli (Church Historian, Villanova University) and Rita Ferrone (*Commonweal Magazine*). Faggioli discussed the implications of clergy sexual abuse and its concealment for the Church's internal and external relationships, emphasizing the new and important development of the Church being scrutinized by secular authorities. Ferrone invited attendees to consider where God is at work in the revelation of clergy sexual abuse, its concealment, and the aftermath. She employed the biblical prophetic tradition as a lens for seeing the possibility of repentance, conversion, and renewal, and she recommended survivors as the prophetic voices in our midst today. Around 50 people were in attendance.

September 23, 2019

Film and Discussion Series at 7:00 p.m. in the Moskovitz Theater: Drs. Teresa Grettano and Stephen Whittaker of the English department showed and led a discussion of *Philomena*. The film portrays the long-term effects of spiritual and institutional ecclesial abuse and cover-up as well as the need of survivors and their advocates to be treated with dignity, honesty, and transparency about what they suffered. Around 15 people attended, around half of whom were students.

October 03, 2019

Clergy Sexual Abuse: Prevention, Healing & Reconciliation from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Leahy Hall, Room 235: A presentation by Michael Vanderburgh (survivor of clergy sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, author, and director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Dayton, OH) and Fr. Thomas Berg (author, speaker, and vice rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in the Archdiocese of New York). Berg spoke of the need of Catholic clergy and faithful to recognize the depth of violence and betrayal that has occurred and therefore to listen to survivors, to welcome their testimony, and to exercise compassion toward them. Vanderburgh explained by way of personal witness the radical difficulty of being a survivor of clergy sexual abuse while remaining a practicing Catholic. He described the varying and often contradictory feelings he experiences, and he spoke of the difficult but real possibility of forgiveness. Around 50 people were in attendance.

November 04, 2019

Film and Discussion Series at 7:00 p.m. in the Moskovitz Theater: Drs. Teresa Grettano and Stephen Whittaker of the English department showed and led a discussion of *Secrets of the Vatican*. The film reveals the roles of money and power in obstructing efforts to confront the problem of clergy sexual abuse and its concealment. The work of Popes Benedict XVI and Francis on this issue are critically reviewed. Around fifteen people attended, around half of whom were students.

February 11, 2020

Film and Discussion Series at 7:00 p.m. in the Loyola Science Center, Room 133: Drs. Teresa Grettano and Stephen Whittaker of the English department showed and led a discussion of *Spotlight*. The film dissects the many layers and spheres of institutional concealment of clergy sexual abuse as well as the devastating effects suffered by survivors. Around 30 people attended, the majority of whom were students, and there was a robust discussion after the film. Many students expressed shock at the scale of the phenomenon.

March 05, 2020

Diocese of Scranton: Learning Lessons, Strengthening Safeguards & Empowering Survivors from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Leahy Hall, Room 235: A presentation by Monsignor Thomas Muldowney (Vicar General), Mary Beth Pacuska (Victim Assistance Coordinator) & Kathleen Bolinski (Safe Environment Coordinator). Muldowney offered an apology to survivors on behalf of the Diocese and expressed his own horror at the fact of clergy sexual abuse of children. Pacuska and Bolinski each described their professional roles with the Diocese. Around 50 people attended, and among them were members from the local community as well as some self-identified survivors of abuse by priests from the Diocese of Scranton. During the open Q&A,

which extended until 7:00 p.m., survivors confronted the Diocesan officials about such matters as being ignored, being re-traumatized by participation in the Victim Compensation Fund, and being insulted by the perception that survivors were mainly interested in financial reparation. One survivor offered to return a settlement check if the Diocese would provide a transparent, forensic account of how abuse cases were handled and how concealment was prioritized. Others in attendance voiced support for survivors and disappointment at a seeming lack of urgency on the part of the Diocese to redress the harm done.

April 07, 2020 (Canceled)

Film and Discussion Series at 7:00 p.m. in the Loyola Science Center, Room 133: Drs. Teresa Grettano and Stephen Whittaker of the English department planned to show and lead a discussion of *Calvary*.

April 21, 2020 (Canceled)

Telling Stories that Do Justice: from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Leahy Hall, Room 235. A presentation by Maggi Van Dorn (*Deliver Us* podcast, *America* magazine).

Summary of Key Lessons Learned

1. Survivors of clergy sexual abuse are re-victimized when their interactions with the Church are characterized by legalism instead of personal attention, forthright communication, and compassion.
2. Survivors of clergy sexual abuse are re-victimized when they are marginalized and portrayed as being unstable, unreasonable, or self-interested. As survivor Michael Baumann, University of Scranton class of 1982, has suggested: “Abuse survivors are the new lepers.”⁶
3. It is a mistake to frame justice primarily in financial terms. The survivors we encountered are more concerned to understand how their abuse occurred, why those who knew about or suspected it remained silent, and how even today their cries for justice are sometimes met with indifference. As Baumann ‘82 said of his interactions with diocesan representatives: “I have never asked for money. I’ve asked for the truth, and they seem to be incapable of giving that to me. Had they apologized and told me how they handled the problem, back in 2007 when I reported, I would have gone on with my life. I wouldn’t be making the noise I’ve been making for the last dozen years, but they won’t give me the truth.”⁷
4. There is significant overlap between the dynamic of abuse and concealment in the Church with that same dynamic in other institutions. For example, many people who are associated with The University of Scranton have personally revealed to members of the Task Force that they have suffered greatly from sexual abuse. Some were abused by diocesan clergy or by Jesuits, but others were abused by family members, coaches, teachers, or other adults in their lives. In many of those cases familiar patterns of silence, secrecy, and cover-up were present. Still, we expect the Church to respond differently than other institutions. The Church ought to lead with honesty, self-examination, confession, vulnerability, sorrow, and repentance. As speaker Rita Ferrone said in her

⁶ Baumann, M. (May 19, 2019). “Abuse Survivors, the New Lepers,” *Off My Knees*. <https://michaelbaumann.blog/2019/05/19/abuse-survivors-the-new-lepers/>

⁷ Baumann, M. (March 2020). “Interview,” *Angry Catholic Show* (Paul and Kristen Ciaccia, hosts), Episode 59.

presentation, the Church ought to treat abuse survivors as the “prophets” of our generation.

5. For reasons we do not totally understand, student engagement with Task Force programming was very low. One exception was an opportunity for students attending Take Back the Night to send notes of support to survivors of clergy sexual abuse.
6. There are good people motivated by compassion who work on survivors’ behalf for justice and healing and who work for the protection of children in our churches. Some of them are students, staff, faculty, and administrators at the University of Scranton. Some of them are lay and ordained Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton. Unfortunately, even such rightly-intentioned persons are prone to lapses in attention, courage, and empathy. The members of the Task Force are not exempt from such lapses, for example not availing ourselves early in the process of an opportunity to hear directly from a survivor willing to speak to us.

Recommendations

The members of the Task Force on Healing, Reconciliation, and Hope listed below make the following recommendations to the Board of Trustees, President, and Provost of the University of Scranton.

1. Offer to the bishop of the Diocese of Scranton the expertise of the University of Scranton community—in History, Psychology, Counseling, Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Theology, etc.—with respect to protecting minors, handling past and present allegations of abuse, and extending justice and healing to survivors of abuse. The nature of such collaboration would be determined through discussion but may include the review of policies, structures, and practices as well as the development of independent recommendations.
2. Provide an appropriate venue, whether a lecture, panel presentation, or publication, for survivors of abuse in the Diocese of Scranton to share their experiences, knowledge, and concerns with the University and wider communities.
3. Financially support the development and teaching of department-specific or interdisciplinary academic courses focused on clergy sexual abuse and its concealment.
4. Financially support and reward scholarly research and publication by faculty members in relation to clergy sexual abuse and its concealment.
5. Financially support cost-of-living and travel for students who acquire unpaid or low-paid internships with organizations that advocate for survivors of sexual abuse.
6. Financially support continued involvement with the Taking Responsibility Initiative at Fordham University.
7. Purchase a work of art to commemorate the initiative of Fr. Scott Pilarz, SJ and to provide a reminder and symbol of hope for future University of Scranton generations.

*Christian Krokus, co-chair

*Patricia Tetreault, co-chair

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