



Letter
to a
Suffering
Church

A BISHOP SPEAKS ON THE
SEXUAL ABUSE CRISIS

SAMPLE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT



Feeling hurt, angry, or demoralized about the sexual abuse crisis plaguing the Catholic Church? Our parish wants to help, and that's why we've ordered copies of a new book for every [family/person] in the parish. It's titled *Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis* by Bishop Robert Barron. We invite you to pick up your free copy after any of the Masses on [weekend dates] or stop by the parish office to claim your copy.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shorter Version

Brothers and sisters, I'm sure most of you are aware of the horrific sexual abuse crisis that has haunted our Church, especially in recent months. We all grieve the wicked ways that priests have abused children, seminarians, and other vulnerable people.

With these scandals in mind, our parish has decided to share with you a new book by Bishop Robert Barron. The book is titled *Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

We've ordered a copy of the book for every [family/person] in the parish, and I think you'll find it helpful and uplifting. Bishop Barron provides clear insight on the crisis and where we should go from here.

So please make sure to take a copy of the book as you leave Mass today, and know that we at [parish name] care deeply about helping you navigate these stormy waters. God bless you!

Longer Version (with Bishop Barron video)

Brothers and sisters, I'm sure most of you are aware of the horrific sexual abuse crisis that has haunted our Church, especially in recent months. We all grieve the wicked ways that priests have abused children, seminarians, and other vulnerable people. I know many of us feel, understandably, demoralized and defeated.

With these scandals in mind, our parish has decided to share with you a new book by Bishop Robert Barron. Bishop Barron is a bishop in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and he's the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. His book is titled *Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

We've ordered a copy of the book for every [family/person] in the parish, and I think you'll find it helpful and uplifting. Here's a short video from Bishop Barron introducing the book:

[Play video >> <https://vimeo.com/334757843><< you can stream or download the video at that link]

Again, our parish has ordered a copy of this new book for every [family/person] in the parish, and my hope is that you read it slowly and attentively. Then after finishing the book, I encourage you to pass it on to a friend or family member who could use it, to anyone struggling with the Church during this crisis.

OPTIONAL: If you'd like to form a study group with other parishioners, you'll find a free group discussion guide at SufferingChurchBook.com which has guidance and sample discussion questions.

OPTIONAL (if running the video minicourse via Flocknote): Our parish has decided to read through this book together, as a parish, one chapter per week over the next five weeks. To help with that, Bishop Barron has created a short video series to guide us along.

With this video series, you'll receive one short email or text message per week, over the next five weeks--so just five total. Each message corresponds to one of the five chapters in the book, and each message will contain a short video reflec-

tion by Bishop Barron followed by a few discussion questions we can discuss together as a parish, using our Flocknote system. It's a chance for you to dialogue with fellow parishioners, and also ask questions of and interact with your priests about this important topic.

So please make sure to take a copy of the book as you leave Mass today, and know that we at [parish name] care deeply about helping you navigate these stormy waters. God bless you!

Longer Version (without Bishop Barron video)

Brothers and sisters, I'm sure most of you are aware of the horrific sexual abuse crisis that has haunted our Church, especially in recent months. We all grieve the wicked ways that priests have abused children, seminarians, and other vulnerable people. I know many of us feel, understandably, demoralized and defeated.

Most of us are wondering, what should we do? What should we do as a Church—as an institution—to bring about reform and renewal, but also as individuals? What can I do?

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We've ordered a copy of the book for every [family/person] in the parish, and I think you'll find it helpful and uplifting. It's not a dry, hollow statement. It's a true cry from the heart. Bishop Barron provides clear insight on the crisis, advice on why we should stay in the Church—clinging to Christ and fighting on behalf of the victims—and where we should go from here.

My hope is that you read it slowly and attentively. Then after finishing the book, I encourage you to pass it on to a friend or family member who could use it, to anyone struggling with the Church during this crisis.

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