



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER SACKS

This coming Saturday, September 15th, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, our chapel will be open from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar in the Chapel of Our Lady and you are invited to come and spend some time with Our Lord in prayer.

It is a day of atonement for sins committed against our children. Those sins are the greatest scandal of our Church in modern times. We pray for those children and their families. May they find the courage to tell their stories and find healing. The scandal has caused great shock and anger in all of us and we pray for our healing too.

Some people feel they can no longer belong to a church in which these atrocities have taken place. They are torn between staying and leaving. Recall the words of Frank Sheed, penned in the middle of the last century, "There isn't anything a Pope or Bishop can do that would make me want to leave the Church. But there are some things a Pope or Bishop can do that would make me want him to leave".

The Church is not the hierarchy and the clergy alone. You are the Church. We are the Church. All of us are needed to right the ship and put it back on the course intended by Jesus. Together, we can reach our destination. It's time for all of us to live our Lord's way.

Saturday will be a day of personal, quiet prayer. There will be no formal program with speeches or sermons. Come with your family, spend a couple of minutes or a whole hour if you like. Talk to our Lord about your feelings and ask him for his healing grace.

Forty- seven years ago. in 1971, Father Carlo Carretto penned these words in a book entitled "*The God Who Comes*". He wrote:

"How baffling you are, oh Church, and yet how I love you! How you have made me suffer, and yet how much I owe you! I should like to see you destroyed, and yet I need your presence.

You have given me so much scandal and yet you have made me understand sanctity. I have seen nothing in the world more devoted to obscurity, more compromised, more false, and

I have touched nothing more pure, more generous, more beautiful.

How often I have wanted to shut the door of my soul in your face, and how often I have prayed to die in the safety of your arms.

No, I cannot free myself from you, because I am you, although not completely, And where should I go? p 183

There is no need to leave the Church. We are blessed with a good and holy Bishop. The Church needs you. The Church needs us. We will get through this, if we do things our Lord's way. Jesus said so. (Matthew 28:20)

**The Church is not a building.
It's the people.**

- Acts 8:3
- Acts 12:5
- 1 Cor. 3:9
- 1 Peter 2:5

