

Message from Joanne Crystle - OMGC Organist

I am not a member of OMGC, nor a Catholic. I have, however, been a part of the Music Ministry and organist here for eight years, and I have a great love for this parish.

My heart aches for this parish and all parishes, and the victims of the recent scandal. The problem the church is facing is a worldwide problem, crossing all professions. It just so happens that the church is one of the largest institutions in the world, with thousands of clergy, staff, and employees. It is also one of the largest educational institutions, with schools all over the world - so there is a huge exposure to children and opportunity for those with this sickness. And it *is* a sickness. As Christians, we believe in forgiveness, but that in no way exempts anyone from paying the consequences for their actions. The courts can take care of the consequences but Jesus is the only one that can take away the sins of the world and give us peace. He is still the Lamb of God - without blemish or sin.

I don't want to say that this mess is a blessing because it certainly isn't. It is a chance for the church to open it's doors and sweep out the dirt - and that is a good thing. But the dust and dirt will cause our eyes to tear, make it difficult to breathe, and downright make us sick. At some point it will be gone- the dirty laundry is going to see the light of day. The victims are getting a chance to tell their stories and be believed. All good.

Many people are rolling up their sleeves to repair the house of God, give it a new coat of paint and a new welcome mat. That, too, is a positive thing. Now as never before there is an opportunity for real change, reform, and revival. It will be no easy task. It will be expensive. Some people will leave.

As you read this, the hungry are being fed, people are working with HIV patients, abused women, victims of human trafficking, the elderly, unwed mothers. They are preaching God's word... doing God's work all over the world. They are forgotten in all of the media hype and sensationalism. The news in the future will probably not be good as court cases go on indefinitely. In our anger and heartache let's try our hardest to find the positive side of this - the open discussions, the sharing of feelings, our OMGC community, and lastly the breath of fresh air coming into the church. And remember that those who are guilty will have to account for what they have done - to a much higher power than any court on earth. Let God handle it. We will continue to pray for the victims... their accounts of abuse are reaching ears that have heard and believe them. Pray that this is the beginning of their road to healing. And pray that the church will use this opportunity to come out the other side of this a better and stronger church.