

September 25, 2018

Most Reverend Donald Kettler, Bishop of St. Cloud
Chancery
214 South Third Avenue, Box 1248
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302-1248

Dear Bishop Kettler,

We, the members of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Liturgy Committee, are very concerned about the abuse and coverup that has spread throughout the Catholic Church during the past 40 years. Our awareness of these facts causes us great heartache for the victims and shame for the abusers.

Our love for the church demands there be a call from the USCCB at their November meeting for reform, a total transparency and accountability of the bishops and priests involved. This is a necessary step to restore trust needed so that the we who are the church can heal. It must be more than asking for prayers and fasting from people in the pew. It is not our sin—unless we are silent and keep healing from happening. Concrete actions are needed.

We also see in this moment a need to address the culture of clericalism that undermines the teachings of Jesus Christ. At the November meeting we ask that a task force be formed made up of lay experts, 50% to be women, charged with investigating the clergy culture. How did we get to this point where the presumptions of privilege and power is the norm? St. Francis heard God's call to "rebuild my church" and we hear that call again now.

Finally, we have a growing concern about enemies of Pope Francis who are working to sabotage his papacy. We ask that the U.S. bishops take a public stand in solidarity with the Bishop of Rome.

Respectfully yours,

The Liturgy Team of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls

Sister Maurita Bernet, OSF

Sister Julien Dirkes, OSF

Sister LaVonne Schackmann, OSF

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