



On behalf of Fr. Tomi, Fr. Sunil and Myself:

We are as much horrified, angered and disturbed as you are about the recent disclosure of abuses committed by members of the clergy and failure of leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. There is no place in church for abuse. There is no place in society for abuse. We pray for the victims. We pray for healing.

The Gospel tells us that even when the church fails to be faithful to God, *God never ceases to be faithful to us*. Together, as a faith community of St. Matthew, we continue to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. But we should *not be guided by our anger*. We must be *guided by transparency and engagement*.

While I was out of the country, Fr. Tomi and Fr. Sunil read Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's August 18th Letter at all Sunday (August 19th) Masses, and at the following week's 4pm (August 25th) Saturday Mass. The Bishop's September 8th Letter will be available at all doors of the Church this weekend, and I will speak about it at all Masses.

In the midst of our great upset, let us remember the words of St. Paul: "*Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more.*"