



**Important Numbers
and Contacts for
Victims of Sexual and
Other Abuses**

If you or someone you know is involved in an abusive situation, the most important first step is to **BREAK THE SILENCE**. Here are a few resources to help:

**The Crisis Hotline of Lake County:
440-953-8255**

**Lake County Family Service 24-
Hour Child Abuse Hotline: 440-350-
4000**

**Cuyahoga County Child Abuse and
Neglect Hotline:
216-696-KIDS (5437)**

**Catholic Charities Helplines:
440-352-6191**

Information Resources

More good resources exist than we have space to include. For more information, email us at Pkampf@leeca.org

**Diocese of Cleveland
216-696-6525 x 6600**

This special hotline is set up for the diocese to respond to questions, concerns, allegations and other needs of the community regarding the sexual abuse crisis.

**US Catholic: Informative
magazine with excellent
informational online links:
www.USCatholic.org**

**The United States
Conference of Catholic
Bishops (3211 Fourth St. NE,
Washington, DC 20017; 202-
541-3000; www.usccb.org)**

Town Hall

Open Convocation on Clergy Sexual Abuse and the Church

FROM THE DESK OF PAULA KAMPF, YOUTH MINISTER

Recent months have found Catholics in the headlines and at the forefront of public conversation as revelations of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church have surfaced, and in our parish the commitment to dialogue and community have opened the door for several forums in which parishioners, staff and Pastoral Team members have had the opportunity to share thoughts, feelings, concerns and questions on the topic. This spring TGIF sponsored two "Processing Sessions" for teens; the wider parish community participated in an evening "Town Hall Meeting."



Approximately 75 people have participated in the listening and response process so far, and the wide array of emotional, intellectual and spiritual concerns voiced reflects a major reality of the sexual-abuse situation: The issues are complex, the development of a response is complicated and the most important thing we can do right now is to work together to seek faithfilled ways to respond.

Many concerns came to light:, including some major, repeated themes:

- < concerns for victims and for perpetrators,
- < concerns that the institutional church make changes to assure healthy and accountable leadership;
- < concern that the onslaught of information might be too overwhelming for regular people to discern what reports are truthful and which ones merely sensational;
- < concern that more parishioners ought to be part of the parish dialogue;
- < concern that good priests and ministers, as well as all Catholics, will be viewed negatively.



Parishioners, Team and Staff alike agreed that keeping the lines of communication and conversation open for everyone in our parish community and within the wider context of the Catholic Church remains a high priority. Some steps include:

- < The TGIF group pulled together a set of notes and concerns from their initial dialogues, faxing those notes to all of the American Cardinals before their meeting at the Vatican in April;
- < Town Hall meeting participants agreed to have notes of their meeting forwarded to our Bishops in preparation for the June meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, too.
- < A special email address has been set up to help parishioners who have questions, concerns, wish for information, or other related thoughts to express; any parishioner can write to the parish Staff and Team at Pkampf@leeca.org at any time to join the conversation.

Huge amounts of information and news coverage of sexual abuse and abuse in the Catholic Church are available online and in print. On this page (see sidebar), several significant information sources and contact people are listed so that parishioners can continue to seek extra information, seek help and broaden understanding as we all seek to respond with the courage, strength, wisdom and compassion of Christ in these challenging days. All parishioners warmly encouraged to continue this conversation with members of the Team and Staff, as well.