



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

Pastor's Note....

A Call to Holiness in the Midst of Scandal

August 12

From the desk of Reverend Martino Choi:

Last week's bulletin included an insert, the most recent communication from the Archdiocese on Archbishop Theodore McCarrick. The latest issue of the Catholic Standard contains an interview with Cardinal Wuerl on the same subject.

There have been a variety of responses to the uncovering of Archbishop McCarrick's indefensible behavior and—just as indefensible—the culture of silence (especially among the hierarchy) that allowed for the Archbishop's continued wrongdoing and even his promotion. There is rightly anger, sadness, and shock, and I echo the calls for transparency and accountability.

One surprising response has been a quasi-defeatism, a “Oh what's new?” after the clergy abuse scandals of the last decade. This tells us that, while a thorough investigation and an overhauled policy are both necessary, they will not be sufficient. Various Catholic commentators have suggested that what we need is a renewed focus on holiness. We must dig deeper indeed – not only into financial records and email exchanges but also into the human heart and soul. We are not dealing merely with procedural shortcomings or human failings; we are dealing with sin and evil.

None of this excuses the behavior of Archbishop McCarrick and his enablers. Hopefully justice will be served, all responsible parties brought to account. Hopefully those who suffered will be granted some degree of healing and vindication. But none of this excuses us from our own obligations to seek holiness, to pray (and fast) for the overall holiness of the Body of Christ.

St. Paul said to the Ephesians: “Our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens” (Eph. 6:12). He also said, “Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more” (Rom. 5:20). Our faith is not one of despair or defeat but one of allowing the Risen and Victorious Christ to transform us to be like Himself.

As we make our trek through the darkness of this sinful world, may we remain focused on the Light of Christ and seek to make ourselves purer vessels of that Light. Let us pray for one another that we become holy!

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Posted with Permission