

Those Directly Affected

Comments and Questions

What can we do for the collaterally damaged eg relations of victims or abusers?

Heaviness of knowing what to do with those who might be close to us who have suffered abuse.

Forgiveness for past perpetrators.

The accused priest may be prematurely judged as guilty.

In the situation where a priest has been declared guilty before he has had a chance to defend himself, where is the support for this man?

Victims should never be condemned and must be listened to and believed.

Where to From Here: Emerging Needs and Suggestions

Need for compassionate support for all those affected, including alleged victims and perpetrators.

Need for early intervention with potential perpetrators.

Need to acknowledge the hurt to victims and support church in its efforts even though costly to assist them.

Need for justice for the victims..

Need for the perpetrator to admit what has happened and acknowledge responsibility/accountability and apologise to the victim(s) and don't hide behind vocation of priesthood.

Need to support accused clergy; and support for family healing by the Diocese.

It is hard for victims to come forward. They need to be accepted so they can tell their story.

Need for understanding of the process from the victim's perspective; denial can be a way of coping.

Need for the diocese to initiate healing opportunities for adult survivors and their families.

Need for validation that abuse has occurred.

Continue to reach out to and support the victims of sexual abuse as a diocesan community.

Need for public apology to victims, with victims and non-victims present.

We need to offer compassion to the accused priests and their families, as well as to the victims and their families.