



———— 24th November, A.D. 2019 ————
The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The long-anticipated Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment (GRACE) investigation is complete. As promised, our Church is providing the complete and detailed GRACE Report, which will be available on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at noon. At the end of this letter, you will find a web link that will take you to the GRACE REPORT. Please note that the link will not work before then.

After Eric Dudley's unexpected resignation in August 2018, our Church had many unanswered questions. In response, our Church leadership, in consultation with our Bishop, hired GRACE, an independent organization that assists churches, in part, by providing investigations into allegations of misconduct and abuse. GRACE's investigators are experienced and include former abuse prosecutors as well as law enforcement agents who have expertise in abuse and trauma.

In hiring GRACE, we committed to complete transparency and sought the answers to three questions: 1) What facts led to the former rector's resignation? 2) Whether or not Church leadership knew or should have known about any misconduct, and 3) Whether there was something in our Church's culture that created an atmosphere that allowed the wrongful conduct to occur. The GRACE report addresses these important questions and gives us guidance on how to prevent similar wrongful acts in the future.

The GRACE report provides documentation that our former rector engaged in sexual misconduct against certain adult staff members and one other non-staff adult, abused his authority as an employer and a priest, and emotionally harmed those in his charge. We profoundly regret the significant pain suffered by the victims of this abuse, and we are deeply sorry for what happened and especially for any actions or inactions that the church and its members may have taken that increased their suffering. As soon as the church became aware of the victims, we entered into a process of restoration with them, including agreements to provide for counseling and financial support, so they could begin their healing. We also provided a severance package for Mr. Dudley for the sake of his family. We continue to pray for healing for those who've been hurt by these tragic events.

We recognize that this information will be very disturbing and confusing to you, and that it is likely to prompt grief and anger in many. Please know that the clergy are available to you for pastoral care and counseling -- just call on us, please.

Before you read or comment on the GRACE report, I would like to offer two guideposts that I hope will be helpful in how we respond to the report: Humility, and Hope.

The first guidepost is Humility. When reading or commenting on facts that show the moral failures and human frailties involved, it is important to remember that we are all sinners who have fallen short of the Glory of God. This focus on humility does not excuse any wrongful conduct or condone it. Indeed, justice requires accountability and the victims' restoration. Nevertheless, all of this reminds us that the central theme of our life is that we are a community of redeemed Christ-followers. Remember with humility, how God walked with us during this difficult year and how He has cared for our Church. We have been taught the lesson, again, that the Church's message of God's transformational love is perfect;

but neither the Church's members nor her messengers are without fault. An additional and final aspect of this humility might be to let the report speak for itself and to resist the sinful temptation to comment further on its meaning or to personally expand on its findings.

The second guidepost is Hope. Our Church is not afraid to be transparent or to hold itself accountable, and we have committed ourselves to restore those who have been hurt.

Our Hope is in a God who works for good, even in face of terrible events; that is why we are an Easter people, even after Good Friday.

In closing, both Bishop Neil Lebhar and I ask that you not get pulled into bitterness or divisions. Please re-read Philippians 4:4-7, which was the subject of my very first sermon among you.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Let us go forward remembering the Truth that we have shared every Sunday since that time, even in the worst of challenges or trials, "God is good all the time; and All the time God is good."

Faithfully,
The Most Rev'd Robert Duncan
Bishop in Residence
Archbishop Emeritus

www.StPetersFL.com/grace-report

Link will be active on November 26, 2019, at noon.

[Since this is the week of Thanksgiving holidays, special arrangements for pastoral care have been made. The Archbishop will be in his office from Morning Prayer until 3:30 on Wednesday. Clergy will also be available after Evening Prayer that day, and after Morning and Evening Prayer on Friday. Additionally, a priest will be available after the 9 am Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, and after the 7 am Eucharist on Saturday, St. Andrew's Day. Regular office hours resume on December 2nd.]