

Call to Worship, 20th Sunday in Ordinary time, B - A Church in Crisis
Patricia Torre, D.W., Pastoral Associate, Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT

In our first reading we see Wisdom reaching out to those who hunger for deeper meaning and who seek greater understanding. She just may be reaching out to each of us this day.

The news of the past weeks concerning the sexual abuse crisis is more than disturbing. It is the news of a church in turmoil, a church that has lost its way. We carry the burdens of our church in crisis. We feel the weight of our confusion and mistrust.

Whenever we are in crisis the fight-or-flight option is in play. I'm grateful that each of you are here today and have not fled. We need each other. We need to walk through the confusion, the anger, the shame of this situation - together. Then we can find a way to create a church where all will be safe. This will take time but we have a direction. We have a reason to stay.

In the gospel today Jesus continues to speak of himself as the living bread and invites the people of his day to feed on him. This week let us take these words to heart as we never have before. Let us feed our hunger for justice, our cry for healing, our anger for righteous on Jesus.

And let us pray for all those who have been abused. Let us hold them in prayer, hold them in our hearts. Let them know that we stand with them, that we care for them. That their pain is our pain. That they belong to us, and we to them.