

Total written responses received from those who did not participate in survey:

You have your nerve sending this out. Who do you represent? You certainly do not represent the parishioners of my parish.

No thanks! Your survey has many errors and seems to be coming from a negative view rather than one that will be helpful. Pax et Bonum.

To Whom It May Concern:

I received your survey, and I appreciate the interest in oversight. I feel, however, that this survey does not take into account many cultural and ecclesiastical considerations. Furthermore, it seems likely that no matter how one answers, the survey is destined to foster a lack of respect for the bishop and for the Church. I strongly suspect that this survey will have no positive value.

I decline to take part in, and I was very close to ignoring the mailing altogether. I wanted, however, to send this note to make sure you knew why I was making this choice.

It is not my habit to write anonymously, but your letter stressed the anonymity of the process. Therefore I will simply identify myself as a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh currently active in a parish assignment.

To whom it may concern:

While I am most appreciative of the concern and efforts on the part of the lay faithful of this local diocese, as well as other dioceses as together we continue to address and seek to heal from the scandal of clerical sexual abuse, and while I am grateful as well for your prayers, I do not intend to participate in the survey that was sent, and ask that you remove me from future mailings.

When I placed my hands between those of Bishop Zubik on the day of my ordination to the priesthood, I promised respect and obedience to him and to his successors. I feel that to complete an "anonymous" survey in which I engage with individuals with whom I am unfamiliar and whose intentions are unclear to me would be a violation of that promise, a promise I try to live seriously. To violate this promise would, in my view, be just as much a violation as if I were to neglect my promise to priestly celibacy, as those who were the cause of this scandal chose to do. To promise respect and obedience does not imply blind submission, but if I take issue with how my bishop or other individuals within the diocese conduct the affairs of the Church, I will take up the matter with them directly, and with respect.

I wish you all the best in your efforts towards resolving the scandal of clerical sexual abuse, and commend you for recognizing that this cannot be a task undertaken only by bishops, priests or others in positions of authority. Rather, it belongs to all of us to seek healing and reconciliation, as well as to seek the necessary measures to ensure that such sins, and crimes, do not continue to take place. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, as be assured of my prayers for you and for your efforts as well.