

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York 14202

Traditionally Speaking by S. Casarotto 8/30/09

CASTING STONES

Weakness in the Church must be properly attended to. However, whatever means are used to strive to correct what should not be, these means must be permeated with a spirit of compassion. It is paradoxical that, while the behavior of Hollywood stars and many public figures is silently condoned and even glamorized, the same wrongdoings within the Church raised an outcry.

Fr. Ladislav Oszy, S.J. said: "There are, there were, there will be weakness in the Church. What should be the response of the Christians? It cannot be anything else than the Christian response that is compassion. Bitter criticism and aggressive accusations don't heal wounds. If anything, they aggravate the conditions of the sick."

When the scandal of the clergy erupted in the Archdiocese of Boston, MA, Card. Bernard Law called for a day of prayer in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The response, I am told, was poor. Anger, shock, revenge, apathy and skepticism may have been the causes. Yet, the most obvious and necessary response from a Christian community in this crisis must be prayer.

At the last Supper, Jesus prayed for his priests. He knows all those who would fail him and still loves them. Jesus has a constant awareness of each person and he still loves us. Yes, He loved us to the brutal death on the cross and He prayed, "Father, forgive them!"

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter. What a meeting it must have been! Just a few days earlier, Peter, the leader of the Apostles, had been a coward and betrayed his Master. Yet, Jesus told Peter: "I prayed for you so that your faith may never fail!" (Lk. 22, 31).

YEAR FOR PRIESTS - Fr. Andrea Santoro, a priest from the diocese of Vicenza, Italy, was murdered in 2005 in his mission in Turkey. In one of his last letters, he wrote:

"One evening, before the Tabernacle, I asked myself: 'Lord, what do you want me to do?' Then another question came to my mind: 'Lord, what are you doing here? What do you want to do? Tell me, because this is very important, and I have only to agree with what you are doing, giving you what I am...' The Gospel says that the Kingdom of God is like a seed and a little yeast. What is important is to fall deep into the soil, with love, with respect, breaking down and becoming one thing with the earth, in silence, ready to die and to sprout when God wants, feeling that the soil has been loved, visited by God and worked by Him in many ways."

Reply Forward