



## DIOCESE of TRENTON

Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

August 2018

### *A Reflection from the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

#### **My Friends in Ministry,**

I'm not usually one for writing long messages or even posting much on social media, but ever since the reports of the horrific actions and the cover-ups that have plagued our church came to light, I have had it on my heart to reach out to all of you. To be honest, I hesitated before writing this simply because I am personally still struggling with what we have learned, and it was hard for me to organize my thoughts and own emotions. I found myself needing more than ever to dive deeply into prayer. As I prayed for the victims and for our church, I also found a need to pray for guidance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through my time in prayer, along with some powerful conversations with a few people that I truly respect, I kept coming to a similar set of conclusions.

The actions of those who betrayed our trust and hurt so many do not and cannot define the Church. Our Church is centered on Jesus Christ, and the mission He handed down to the apostles and eventually to all of us. No matter what has happened, these remain the same. We are called to know, love and serve our God, and to go and make disciples. And for those of us in youth and young adult ministry, we are needed to live that call now more than ever. At this critical time, our young people need to know they are loved by God and our Church, and our role in bringing this message to them is vital.

Please know that I stand alongside you struggling with all we have learned, but I also stand beside you in support. I remain with you steadfast in my faith in Jesus Christ and in our duty to spread the gospel message, especially to our young people. We know that God does not abandon us and He walks besides us giving us all that we need to face any obstacle. So I implore you to dive into your prayer life and to be face to face with our God who showers us with his love and strength, and remain strong in your witness of faith, because the young Church needs you. And while I do not claim to have all the answers, I do promise to pray for you and to be ready to be a help to you any way I can. As always, if there is ever a way I can be supportive to you or your ministry; do not hesitate to reach out to me.

**God Bless you,**  
Dan

*The National Federation Catholic Youth Ministry has provided resources that you may find helpful in your ministry. Please click the link for tips on talking with young people about church sexual abuse, prayer experiences to lead and more...*

<http://www.nfcym.org/youthprotection/>

