

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Friday, November 30, 2018

Looking For God As We Deal With Abuse in the Church:
A Spiritual Conversation for JST Students

Led by George Murphy, SJ and Deborah Ross

Introduction and Welcome

Opening Prayer

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.¹

¹ <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-for-healing-victims-of-abuse.cfm>

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Outline of Conversation

Students will be invited to share:

1. One hope from this prayer/conversation.

Let us pause and pray with what we have heard...

2. One way in which the abuse crisis has affected us.

Let us pause and pray with what we have heard...

3. What is touching your heart as you listen?

Let us pause and pray with what we have heard...

4. Do you have any sense of God's presence and, if so, what is that God like?

Let us pause and pray with what we have heard...

5. Has there been any scripture passage/scene that you have found helpful during this time?

Final Prayer and Closing

Our Father ...