

**Statement from the Oblate Priests of St. John Neumann:**

Sin and evil exist everywhere and at all times, but when it happens in the very institution given us by God to bring us salvation and hope—the damage to all of us is most difficult to understand and to recover from.

In the name of all of the priests here at St. John Neumann, we want to apologize for the hurt, pain and damage done to all of you.

We pray for the victims of abuse and the damage caused by the institution that covered up the evil with the excuse of avoiding scandal.

You are the church—not the hierarchy. Never let anyone be an obstacle to your relationship with God.

The community here at St. John Neumann supports and loves you and will do all we can to restore hope and the belief that has been damaged by the actions and failings of some priests and bishops.

Have faith that God will ultimately heal us all.