**Suggested Text  
Expression of feelings OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE SCANDAL**

1. *Please edit the text to express your feelings.*
2. *Choose a recipient(s) from the list of suggestions.*
3. *Sign your name.*
4. *Send to your chosen Church leader(s).*

Salutation,

I am writing as a faithful parishioner and [life-long Catholic] [Catholic convert of (number) of years] to express my feelings of (choose: anger, betrayal, frustration, or other) toward the hierarchy of our Roman Catholic church in its present-day, serial mishandling of the sexual abuse of minors and young adults by Catholic clergy. This scandal has eroded my confidence in church leadership at all levels, and because I have been blind-sided by its magnitude, further caused a personal crisis for me in where and how I shall place my future trust.

This crisis is not just about the church, it affects our *lives* as Catholics. Until it is resolved, and as our world becomes more and more complicated, it is now apparent that we will be less and less able to call upon our church for counsel, spiritual guidance and sanctuary.

Your personal and vigorous participation in the church’s long-term healing process is imperative. I request that you do everything in your power to encourage the forgiveness that we as Christians owe to our brother-priests, because we need your help. This time, this century, this crisis must not be swept aside.

Sincerely and respectfully,