SPRING 2023 | VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

INTO THE DEEP

"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (<u>Luke 5:4</u>).

Pastoral Studies Program Newsletter



Transforming the Culture one Heart at a Time

Cover photo by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski (1873-1939); Accessed 12/5/21 http://www.cisza2.krakow.dominikanie.pl, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9049047



SEMESTER

2023

CONTEMPLATING THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS CHRIST

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

May Jesus Christ be praised, now and forever! During this holy season of Lent, I would like to dedicate this issue of our Pastoral Studies Department newsletter to the <u>Holy Face of Jesus</u>.

The face represents the person. We get a sense of whether one is happy, peaceful or upset by looking at one's face. Moreover, we might consider a conversation between two people. If one had the back of his head directed toward the other person the entire time the two were in conversation, it would raise questions regarding the genuineness of their friendship. Naturally, one would assume that the other is not listening or does not care what one is saying.

Whether we are speaking or listening, we face the person with whom we are in conversation, and we do so naturally. Almost instinctively, we understand that we give someone our attention when we face the person to whom we are speaking.

While the face of a person, particularly the eyes, presents the whole of one's being to another, an irrational animal does not have a face (Mt. 6:22-23). It has no personhood to offer. Irrational animals have heads and intelligent beings (people, Angels, and God) have a face. (continued on page 2)



(continued from p.1)

During the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, He allowed <u>His sacred Face</u> to be slapped, buffeted and spat upon, while His brow was covered in thorns. They further disgraced Him by shouting in <u>His Face</u> and pounding the thorns deeply into His <u>Sacred Head</u>. One wonders whether any of Christ's enemies looked upon His <u>Holy Face</u>. Did they avoid His loving look of mercy and forgiveness? As Jesus rested His eyes upon them, did they sense <u>His sorrowful Heart</u>, which loved so much? Did anyone look into His eyes and see His meek, forgiving Heart as He was being rejected by those who were putting Him to death?

As we contemplate the <u>sacred Face of Jesus</u> this Holy Week, let us strive to accept His merciful love! Let us console His <u>Sacred Heart</u> by accepting the grace and mercy that others reject, just as St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the <u>Holy Face</u> has done before us (St. Thérèse, <u>Story of a Soul</u>; Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, <u>33 Days to Merciful Love</u>)! I wish you a blessed Holy Week!



And going a little farther He fell on His Face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt' (Matthew 26:39).



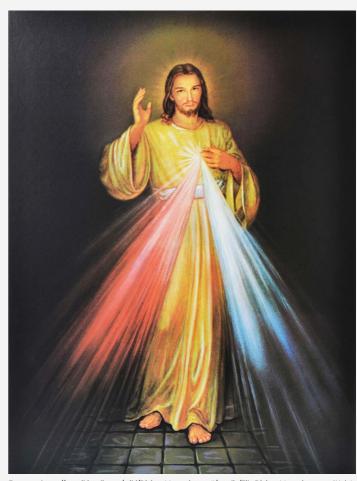
Beginning with our first issue of *Into the Deep* in the spring of 2020, we consecrated the Pastoral Studies Department to God's Divine Mercy. The connection between Pastoral Studies and Divine Mercy is evident. Our Pastoral Studies students and alumni strive to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in their apostolic labors of love.

Each spring, we renew our Department's consecration to Divine Mercy. From your area of the globe, please join the Pastoral Studies Department as we renew our consecration by praying the following prayer on Divine Mercy Sunday.

ETERNAL FATHER,

through Your Beloved Son, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Most Chaste Heart of Saint Joseph, I spiritually join my prayers to those of the Pastoral Studies department, asking You to accept and bless this consecration to Divine Mercy. Help me to be a beacon of light for others as I strive to practice mercy by my prayers, words, and deeds. I ask for these things in the Name of Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord and Merciful Redeemer, Amen.

As you pray the Divine Mercy Novena, which begins on Good Friday, please consider including the Pastoral Studies Department in your petitions. Thank you for being part of the Pastoral Studies family, and may God reward you for your prayers!



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Mercy_image#/media/File:Divine_Mercy.jpeg, "Hyła's version of the Divine Mercy image has been recognised and is used throughout the Roman Catholic Church." Public Domain



"During a seminar at HACS about the Summa Theologiae [i.e., the Pastoral Studies Human Formation Conference], students were asked to integrate Aquinas' comments about the necessity of faith to be a Christian. In my own case, I was an atheist. After a conversion experience, I have known that there is a God, as well as an eternal judgement. During my catechesis as a Roman Catholic (I'm a convert), I was told about the "Real Presence" of Jesus in the Eucharist. I did not believe it in my heart, but I gave intellectual consent. Later, I believe in Christ's came to Presence in the Holy Eucharist in a very powerful way. He is there, and I am most grateful."

Human Formation Conference Attendee





CAMPUS-WIDE HOLY HOUR AND ROSARY

In this inaugural semester of our campus-wide Rosary and Holy Hour initiative, the Pastoral Studies Department is honored to invite you to our final event this semester. On Thursday, April 13 at 7:30 PM Eastern time, please join ononline and students. campus alumni, faculty and staff for a Rosary and Holy Hour. Come in person or experience the beauty of our Lord's Eucharistic Presence online through livestreaming.

If you are joining us online, go into your Populi account "home page." In the top right corner of your screen, you will see an "Events" tab. A few days before April13, click on our "Rosary and Holy Hour" link and follow the directions.

As Pope Saint John Paul II teaches, "it is prayer, together with the Church's sacraments and ascetical practice, which will provide hope in difficulties, forgiveness in failings, and confidence and courage in resuming the journey" (John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis, #29). As adorers of our Eucharistic Lord know, the Rosary and time before the Blessed Sacrament fortify us to "resume the journey." Come join us and be fortified and renewed!

MY JOURNEY TO HOLY APOSTLES

By Joanna R. Downing

This Easter will mark my fifth year as a Catholic. I grew up Protestant, particularly Charismatic-Pentecostal. I was fortunate to have been raised by parents that loved the Lord and sought to put Him first. Our lives were marked by church, home Bible studies, praise and worship services, Christian conferences and prayer meetings. I was baptized by my dad at the age of 12 and this marked a very real change in my life. I tangibly felt the change-something was new and alive. I desired more of God. I started reading the Bible for myself and I began pursuing my relationship with God more seriously. (Continued on next page)



(Journey, continued)
At the age of 15 I had a profound experience with God that transformed me. That year I started going on mission trips and I had a deep desire to give my entire life to God.

After spending time
doing foreign
missionary work, I
ended up joining the
Navy as a linguist. My
desire was to learn a
foreign language
fluently, so that I could



return to the mission field with increased effectiveness. However, it was at language school that I met and fell in love with my husband, James Downing. He was a Marine Corps linguist and also had a desire to serve Christ as a missionary.

After getting married, I was still serving my enlistment in the Navy, when we felt called to start a family. During this time, we attended a variety of churches, from the big mega churches to the small home churches, but we never felt like we quite fit in.

Eventually, we ended up back in my small hometown in lowa. My parents were pastoring a church and we tried to go there for a time, but we just couldn't do it. We both felt God calling us to a deeper union with Him. At this point, we had five children, but we still felt Him calling us to be open to life. This was terrifying to me. It would have much easier for me to go on foreign missions to Africa. I felt comfortable with that. I didn't understand why God seemed to be asking only this of me. Up until this point, I did not know anyone that God had called to be so radically committed to openness to life, even to the point of being counter cultural. Little did I know...

During this time, my husband spent many weeks and months on the road for his work. He would often try to find a local church wherever he happened to be. One weekend he ended up at a Catholic Mass and found that he so appreciated the reverence, holiness and liturgy of the Mass. He began seeking out a Catholic church wherever he went, realizing that no matter which town he was in, the Mass was always the same. It felt like home. We began to ask some hard questions. How do we know what we are to believe about God, Mary and the saints? Is the Bible enough? How do we know our interpretation of the Bible is correct when there are 40,000+ Protestant denominations that all claim to have the truth?

Very slowly and gently the Lord led us to the Catholic Church in 2018. I could never have imagined all that God had for us in His Church. Not long after joining the Church, I was seeking out a Master's degree program. I had completed my undergrad program in Christian counseling at a Baptist university and, prior to becoming Catholic, I had been looking into a variety of theology programs. However, after my conversion, a quality, (Continued on next page)



(Journey, continued) authentically Catholic school was very important to me, especially after wading through the moral relativism of Protestantism. I reached out to a few schools for more information, but ultimately left it in God's hands, not knowing what His plan for me was or if it was even the best time to begin studies with 5 small children at home. Thankfully, He had a wonderful plan for me!

It was a warm day outside. I was making a stack of peanut butter sandwiches and pouring little cups of milk. My phone rang in my pocket. And out of the blue, I heard that quiet voice of the Holy Spirit whisper, "Answer this call."

The voice grabbed my attention and I reached into my pocket to find out who was calling, expecting it to be someone I knew or at least a local number. But to my surprise, it just looked like a telemarketer number. And it was definitely not local. I felt disappointed, but decided to answer anyway.

"Hello?" I tentatively answered the phone.

To my shock there was a real person on the other end. "Hello! My name is Dr. Cynthia Toolin- Wilson," said the cheerful voice. "I'm calling with Holy Apostles College and Seminary. I was wondering if you would be interested in starting your Master's program with us this fall?"

I just stood there in shock. It was like God Himself was calling me! "YES!"

"Yes! I do want to start this fall!" I nearly shouted into the phone. "Send me all the info!" I couldn't believe it. In less than 2 minutes my life had taken a turn that would leave me transformed. Today I am only a few classes away from receiving my Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies. My husband and I now have 8 children and we homeschool. I can't imagine my life without Holy Apostles. I am so grateful for all the wonderful professors, lectures, reading and discussions with fellow students.

I have no idea what will come next, but I am so thankful that God brought me to this wonderful academic family. Maybe at graduation I will get to meet Dr. Toolin-Wilson and tell her "thank you" for calling me that day.

Blessings to all of you!



"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU." JOHN 2:5





Photo by Matias Garabedian from Montreal, Canada - Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php? curid=40525243

ADDICTION TO EMOTIONAL RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

By Fr. Dominic Apaatah

Dr. Arthur William McVey and Dr. Ronda Chervin have been wonderful professors at Holy Apostles College and Seminary as far as the course, PAS 780 Spiritual Psychology of Addiction and Habits of Recovery, is concerned. Their insights have made me think that it is possible to be addicted to one's emotional religious experiences. I am sharing this because I have come across many good and faithful Catholics who are still struggling with their love for God. They find it difficult to pray and to attend Mass unless they have good feelings and religious emotions when they do so. Basing our love and service of God on our emotions in religious experiences yields disastrous results. It can become an idol that robs our desire for God.

In the Old Testament, Moses experienced the miraculous event of the Burning Bush. In his search for God, he moved beyond that experience of wonderment to encounter his God and his own mission. Of course, there is a big difference between God's manifestation to Moses in the Burning Bush and our "emotional highs" during prayer.

Like the Hebrews in the wilderness, we sometimes suffer roadblocks in our attempt to properly contextualize "emotional highs" or other religious experiences. With the "emotional highs" come the "emotional lows" and we need to persevere regardless of feelings or emotions. The Hebrews exclaimed, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate out fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16:3). Like the Hebrews, some of us get stuck in these emotional religious experiences because they make us feel good in the short term. But in fact, they don't lead us to encounter God's infinite love. We stop at the gift instead of looking beyond it to the Giver.



At the Transfiguration of the Lord, Peter was tempted to cling to a miraculous religious experience when he exclaimed: "Lord, it is good for us to be here" (Matthew 17:4)! This wonderment was meant to strengthen him for Christ's redemptive mission on the Cross. In another episode before the event of the Transfiguration, Jesus rebuked this same disciple of His for setting his mind on human things instead of the divine (cf. Matthew 16:23). Our attitude toward such miraculous "emotional highs" or unusual religious experiences could make them idols of worship in our own lives.

Similarly, the Pharisee and Scribes were so attached to the laws that they forgot their importance as a means of encountering God's love. We need to allow any emotional religious experience to increase our love for God. We need to do His will regardless of any "spiritual highs" we may receive. We cannot cling to them when they are only meant (Continued on next page)

(Addiction, continued) to enhance our spiritual growth. Likewise, we need to remember that we often grow closer to God in the "valleys" of spiritual darkness, dryness, and humility.

Lent is a season of God's grace. It is a journey through the wilderness which demands our courage and our perseverance. We struggle with the difficulties of tearing down our vices and sins but, thankfully, we can cooperate with God's grace and allow Him to help us grow closer to Him.

SPRING SEMESTER HUMAN FORMATION CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, March 1, Pastoral Studies students met via Zoom for a Human Formation Conference to discuss the <u>Commentary</u> on the Apostles' Creed by Saint Thomas Aquinas. What was particularly interesting is his discussion on faith in the prologue, which we applied to ministry. Students who attended received two hours of Human Formation credit. (For details on formation credit, please see the <u>Pastoral Studies Handbook</u>).

Our next Human Formation Conference is on Wednesday, June 21, the feast of <u>Saint Aloysius Gonzaga</u>, at 7:00 PM Eastern time. We will discuss, via Zoom, <u>Commentary Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5. All those who attend and who complete the form can earn three hours of Human Formation credit. Plan to join us!</u>

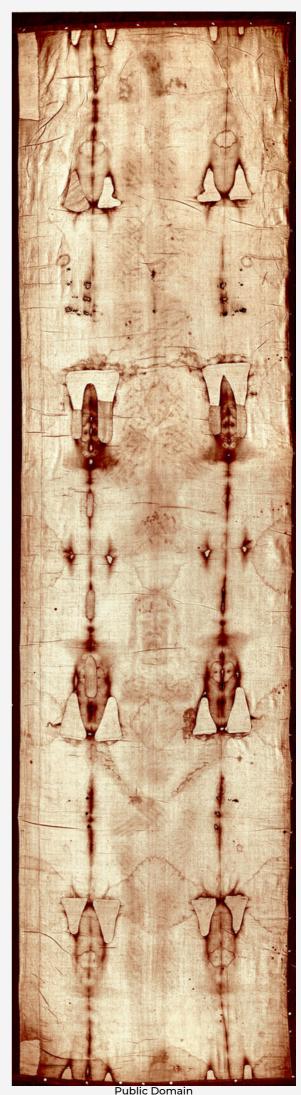
- Article 2 "And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord"
- <u>Article 3</u> "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary"
- <u>Article 4</u> "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried"
- <u>Article 5</u> "He Descended to the Underworld. The third day He arose again from the dead"



'God' means the ruler and provider of all things. He, therefore, believes in God who believes that everything in this world is governed and provided for by Him. He who would believe that all things come into being by chance does not believe that there is a God.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Commentary on the Apostles' Creed







MEET FIRST-YEAR MAPS STUDENT, DEBORAH KISPERT

I have just joined the Holy Apostles MAPS program this Spring 2023. My concentration is Pastoral Counseling.

While being a life-long Christian, I am a convert to the Catholic Faith 14 years ago. I have been a very active parishioner in many ministries, especially involving evangelization missionary discipleship. husband and I have been blessed to be owners of a counseling center in Northern New Jersey for over 20 years. I am currently a Registered Dietitian. My goal is to assist my clients with restoring joy, happiness and health. Oftentimes, this also involves a level of spirituality.

Over the past several years, there have been a few key areas on my Christian journey that have had me pondering, praying about, and

discerning, "Is there more I need to be seeking to bring Christ to others and to be a more intentional disciple"?

My husband is completing formation to the permanent diaconate and, God-willing, he will be ordained in June 2023. During this time, I have felt called to minister to others in a Christ-centered way. My previous educational background has been Catholic based. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition from Marywood University. I also have completed post-graduate credits in Sports and Wellness from St. Elizabeth University, before converting to the Catholic Faith.

When considering various programs to pursue, I received support and guidance from my Spiritual Director. She is a religious sister of the Cenacles as well as a psychotherapist. She assisted me with determining what areas of study may be best suited for a career shift. During this exploration, I had a wonderful experience with the Holy Apostles Director of Admissions, the MAPS Program Director, as well as a recent graduate from the program. The college's vision and mission statements align with my personal vocation and that of my parish.

Since beginning the program, the assistance, guidance, and quality of the program have been impressive. During the first week of class, I was traveling with my husband's diaconal cohort to the Holy Land. Dr. Marianne Siegmund was extremely flexible in allowing assignments to be made up and in keeping me on track. As an older student returning to academia after many years, this was beyond gracious. Fortunately, the "sound-bytes" I received from my husband's MA in Theology are resounding in my ears with my first core course in Practical Theology!

My prayer is that God will use my degree and training at Holy Apostles to be more spiritually present in my office with clients, more pastoral in ministry at church as well as in anticipation of offering retreats and prayer services to those in my community.

MEET FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STUDENT, DR. PAT MCCROSSEN, MD, MPH

I am a first semester student pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Counseling.

As a practicing physician who is deeply rooted in my Faith, I believe my calling in life is to help others in their journey of healing and growth. This is why I decided to pursue a pastoral counseling degree – to provide care rooted in a Catholic spiritual perspective. I am certain that the Holy Spirit led me to Holy Apostles College and Seminary. I looked at several local schools, but I gave up because classes were scheduled at specific times and my schedule is anything but regular.

One day, responding to that still small voice, I "googled" pastoral counseling certificates and the Holy Apostles website came up number one. The asynchronous online classes are a prefect fit. I also wanted a school that was true to the Catholic Faith and the Church's Magisterium. Holy Apostles is a perfect fit there, too! The Holy Apostles curriculum and opportunities for true Catholic formation are the best among all of the colleges I considered. I am so grateful to be studying with such devoted and dedicated Catholics. I am very happy to be deepening my knowledge of the Faith with such wonderful and holy teachers.



Finally, I chose Holy Apostles for its community. Shortly after sending for information from admissions, I viewed a wonderful online sermon video. When I "googled" the priest's name, his website listed Holy Apostles as his seminary training. I could see, then, that Jesus's yoke was guiding me to where I am now. Since the semester has started, I couldn't be more pleased with the quality of the professors, the professionalism of the staff and the faithfulness of everyone I've met at Holy Apostles. Praise be to Jesus through Mary! Deo gratias.

Upcoming Live Events in the Graduate Pastoral Studies Department

- APRIL 13 ROSARY AND HOLY HOUR (LIVE-STREAMED)
- JUNE 21 HUMAN FORMATION CONFERENCE, THE APOSTLES'

 <u>CREED</u> BY SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS (ARTICLES 2-5)
- SEPTEMBER 13 M.DIV./NE STUDENT, DR. PAUL BOLUS, EXPLORING THE RICHNESS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

The Rosary and Holy Hour will be live-streamed at 7:30 PM Eastern time. The other events will occur at 7:00 PM Eastern time via Zoom.

UPCOMING LIVE EVENT: EXPLORING THE RICHNESS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: DIFFERENCES IN THE EASTERN MARONITE RITE AND THE WESTERN ROMAN RITE

PRESENTED BY M.DIV./NE STUDENT, DR. PAUL BOLUS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 7:00 PM EASTERN

- Did you know that there are 23 different rites of Catholicism, with the Roman Catholic Rite being so predominant some have not heard or experienced the other Rites?
- Did you wonder why there were differences in the Eastern Rites of Catholicism? Or what the differences were?

Attend this talk to learn about the Maronite Rite, one of the 23 different rites and an Eastern Rite of the Church, and learn why and how it differs from the Roman Rite.

- We will discuss historical, theological and traditional reasons for the differences.
- We will explore differences that include liturgical, church calendar, sacraments, traditions, and customs.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the richness of the Catholic Faith and its diversity and one of the Rites of Catholicism that originated in the land of Christ!

Current M.Div./NE students and MAPS students who began in the summer semester of 2022 or thereafter will receive a Zoom link. For other interested students and alumni, please email the Program Director, Dr. J. Marianne Siegmund, at msiegmund@holyapostles.edu to request a link. At the time of your request, please provide her with a working email so she can send you the link. For more information on each event, please see below.



PASTORAL STUDIES STUDENTS!

Consider offering a Human Formation talk in partial or full fulfillment of your Human Formation hours. This student-led initiative involves offering a Zoom presentation (about 20-25 minutes in length) in one's area of expertise and then answering questions for the rest of the hour (35-40 minutes). Any student who leads a Human Formation presentation in one's area of expertise will receive approximately five hours of formation credit. For more information, please see the online <u>Pastoral Studies Department Handbook</u>.

SAINT JOSEPH, THE GREATEST SAINT AFTER OUR LADY

Saint Joseph, the Head of the Holy Family, is known for his great purity of heart, second only to that of Our Lady's for its purity and holiness. In fact, Saint Joseph's purity was such that he was blessed to see God in Person in his own home for decades. The words of Our Lord in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew became a reality in the life of Saint Joseph: "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter Patris Corde, writes, "In his relationship Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the Heavenly Father: he watched over Him and protected Him, never leaving Him to go His own way" (Frances, Patris Corde). As Joseph was a father to Jesus, so can he be to each one of us. Sister Miriam James, in her inspiring video on Fatherhood. encourages us to "spend time with Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth" by her own prayerful visits to the Holy House (Week Two | Behold: Advent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland," at Ave Maria Press).

This beautiful little prayer honors the Three Hearts in the Holy Family:
Heart of Jesus, I adore Thee,
Heart of Mary, I implore Thee,
Heart of Joseph, pure and just,
In these Three Hearts I place my trust
(This prayer can be found on various websites).



EARN SPIRITUAL FORMATION CREDIT

You can obtain Spiritual Formation credit for making a pilgrimage to your local Cathedral or to another shrine near you. Consider also the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin or in Mexico City, or the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin.





An advertisement from Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP, at En Route Books and Media

We all know that certain clerics with same-sex tendencies can and do lead chaste lives, however, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have wisely forbidden the ordination of those, who among other things, have deep seated homosexual tendencies or who have otherwise embraced the gay culture.

Two books might assist English and Italian speakers to consider the broader consequences concerning the acceptance of sexually active clerics per se in the Church. Above all, we should be concerned about the salvation of souls of these clerics, and also the salvation of souls of those under their spiritual care as well as the protection of persons from sexual predators in positions of trust, including disabled persons, adolescent males, seminarians, young men and others.

Here are the links. One link is to a book in English, and the second link is to the Italian version of the same. Both links include several positive book reviews.

Vol. 1:

<u>Clerical Sexual Misconduct</u>: An Interdisciplinary Analysis | International Catholic Jurists
Forum

<u>La Cattiva Condotta Sessuale del Clero</u>: Un'Analisi Interdisciplinare | En Route Books and Media

These books were created to better understand the problem of clerical sexual violence on males in the Church following the public events in Chile, Honduras and in the United States.

While the book engages empirical data in the American situation, there is much in the volume that applies across cultures in light of State Commission reports in various countries on sexual abuse in the Church that have found that have affirmed that 80 percent of victims in the Church have been male, mostly adolescent males, and young men, something that differs from other institutions, where the victims are female, which is a topic discussed in Vol. 2.

Vol. 2:

Clerical Sexual Misconduct, Vol. 2: A Foundational Conversation | En Route Books and Media





Photo by Dianelos Georgoudis - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=33117743

"LET GOD ARISE,
AND LET HIS
ENEMIES BE
SCATTERED: AND
LET THEM THAT
HATE HIM FLEE
FROM BEFORE HIS
FACE!"
Psalm 67:2 (DRA)

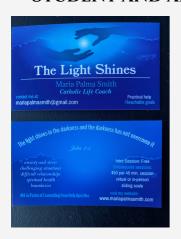
Visit us online at

Please keep all our students, faculty and staff in your prayers.

https://holyapostles.edu



STUDENT AND ALUMNI APOSTOLATES





<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Awareness and Healing Ministry





Consider supporting Holy Apostles
College and Seminary.
https://holyapostles.edu/giving/

Consider supporting Catholic Radio, an Outreach of Holy Apostles College & Seminary

https://wcatradio.com/support/

Welcome to all of our new M.Div./NE and MAPS students!

Please send comments or submissions for *Into the Deep* to Dr. J. M. Siegmund at msiegmund@holyapostles.edu