Parish Announcement
“Letter to a Suffering Church”

Brothers and sisters, I’m sure most of you are aware of the horrific sexual abuse crisis that has haunted our Church, especially in recent months. We all grieve the wicked ways that priests have abused children, seminarians, and other vulnerable people. I know many of us feel, understandably, demoralized and defeated.

Most of us are wondering, what should we do? What should we do as a Church—as an institution—to bring about reform and renewal, but also as individuals? What can I do?

With these scandals in mind, our parish has decided to share with you a new book by Bishop Robert Barron. Bishop Barron is a bishop in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and he’s the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. His book is titled *Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

We’ve ordered a copy of the book for every family in the parish, and I think you’ll find it helpful and uplifting. It’s not a dry, hollow statement. It’s a true cry from the heart. Bishop Barron provides clear insight on the crisis, advice on why we should stay in the Church—clinging to Christ and fighting on behalf of the victims—and where we should go from here.

My hope is that you read it slowly and attentively. Then after finishing the book, I encourage you to pass it on to a friend or family member who could use it, to anyone struggling with the Church during this crisis.

You will find a video introduction to the book on our parish website. Bishop Barron has also created a short video series to guide us through the book. If we have your email on file in the office, you will receive one short email over the next five weeks. Each message corresponds to one of the five chapters in the book, and each message will contain a short video reflection by Bishop Barron followed by a few discussion questions we can discuss together as a parish, using a Flocknote system. It’s a chance for you to dialogue with fellow parishioners, and also ask questions of and interact with your priests about this important topic. So please make sure to take a copy of the book as you leave Mass today, and know that we at St. Elizabeth Seton care deeply about helping you navigate these stormy waters. God bless you!