

Four Courageous Conversations – Final Notes

November 15th and 17th, 2018 St. John the Evangelist, Naples

#1A: Sharing our Hearts, What are your feelings re the Catholic Church Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis? I feel...

- This has gone on for a long time, and then covered up.
- The Church put guilt on me when they were the ones doing bad things
- I'm pissed that they are just meeting, again.
- Devastated, betrayed; I let my sons be servers without knowing what my priest was doing;
- Angry that the pastor and the bishop knew it and did nothing.
- Abusers are not evil men, but they just do evil things.
- I look at priests differently than before.
- Betrayed, grief, anger, frustrated, shattered, robbed.
- I can't look at a priest without feeling suspicion and thinking, "I can't trust you."
- I still trust priests; they are consecrated men.
- Disgusted that one who preaches about sin, does it.
- Harming children is crossing the line; I feel suspicion about priests and pain for the victims
- Abusers are sick people, but those who cover it up are worse
- I feel sorry for priests now; they are in a tough position. The congregation mistrusts them.
- I'm now in a position that I have to defend my Church.
- I'm angry, disgusted at the level this issue has taken.
- Disillusioned at the Church leadership for not acting as they should.
- Because it is the clergy, it feels like they just look out for themselves.
- The Pope shut down the American bishops. Why?
- It's like the Bishops just wish it would go away.
- I have lost the trust in clergy that I had as a child.
- My religion is Jesus, Mary, saying the rosary and going to Mass.
- Every Cardinal and bishop should be replaced; I don't trust/respect any of them anymore.
- How do we know who is guilty?
- It hasn't diminished my love for the Mass.
- Shocked at how bishops I trusted protected their priests and put children in harms way
- Bishops are totally responsible for this atrocity; 300 priests over 50 years in Pa.
- Pope let us down in 2002; didn't do what he must. My trust is gone.
- What is in place to prevent a repeat of this again?
- All priests are associated with abusing children.
- Betrayed; I trusted priests but now doubt all priests.
- I don't respect bishops; they didn't protect our children.
- Sad for the good priests. This hurts them too.

- A Failure to take action - their words come out, their lips move, but no action has been taken.
- Betrayed by the church. Jesus meant the church to bring us to heaven. Priests represent Jesus, but they are not being responsible or good representatives of Jesus
- The Church has been negligent in training priests.
- Bishops have been more interested in protecting the church than protecting the victims – innocent children.
- I also feel a lot of anger towards bishops.
- Appalled, shocked, saddened that the hierarchy has betrayed us.
- I feel disbelief that the Bishops and leadership have not taken appropriate action.
- Most of all, I feel saddened. This is my Church and this hurts.
- Sad, but more fear for the church.
- I feel afraid that this is just the tip of the iceberg.
- The Church has already lost one of my sons and his family because of this. It scares me.
- Confused mostly. I am a new convert, and being new to the Church, this is also very new to me. I am sad, and hurt, but mostly confused.
- Confused and angry
- Sorry for the abused, angry that the sexual abuse happened, and ashamed that it did happen
- Sad for everyone involved, powerless, apathetic because I don't know my place in it
- Sad that they just moved the pastors around and that my child was affected by this 40 years ago as a clergy sex abuse victim.
- Sadness, shame, and disappointment that we haven't fixed it
- Deep sadness, anger, shock that nothing has changed since the 2002 Boston exposure, and i have considered leaving the faith because of this. I don't want to but this makes it harder to stay.
- Sadness, shocked by the exposure in Pittsburgh because I lived there and I have been experiencing judgement from other Christian denominations
- Disgust with sin and corruption and that this situation should have been fixed years ago
- Ashamed, judged by association. Don't want to listen to the news.
- This makes me angry. I stay in the Catholic church because I believe in God but I feel betrayed.
- Heartbroken, aware of everything happening, I watch all the news from both sides.
- Overwhelmed that it made it all the way up to a cardinal maybe even the pope.
- Shocked & ashamed at the numbers. People are attacking all Catholics now.
- When priests mess up people tend to blame it on God.
- Deeply hurt (crying) brings up memories of Grandma and Great aunt who were orphans at a catholic orphanage, assumes now that they must have been abused because they weren't "all there".
- I love my parish, I feel it can all be turned to good.
- I feel like this is the biggest reason people are leaving the catholic church
- I'm a eucharistic minister and I will stay one because I feel judged if I decide to stop, I'm afraid to say how I actually feel when I say "This is the body of Christ" to people.
- It started a long time ago, the Catholic Church does not have a plan to solve it. I'm being cheated by a corrupt system that is stealing our church."

- I'm greatly concerned. I cannot imagine how Our Father in heaven looks down upon our church. I keep thinking of the bible verse "Jesus wept." Horrifying, depressing, dispiriting.
- Feel like the church is giving lip service rather than pursuing action. I feel like if we are being obedient to our pope, but we are not obeying Our Lord."
- Betrayal. Feel most for the children who were abused.
- I feel angry. I feel like there could be more done.
- Disgusting. We have put our trust in the clergy and they have betrayed that trust. I sense a lack of prayer, a lack of love for God and others in their lives."

Courageous Conversation #1-B: Sharing Our Hearts As I listened, what I heard was...

- People are suffering pain because they have been betrayed.
- The priests are supposed to be another Christ. When we brought the children to them, we were betrayed.
- Hearing the different perspective of six different people was enlightening.
- Non-predators above covered up clergy abusing kids
- Faith in the whole Church was lost.
- We are forced to defend our faith, rather than evangelize.
- Similar feelings; I don't want to be near priests anymore.
- It's hard to hold on to my religion; people are struggling to stay Catholic.
- Two of my sons no longer go to church; I don't know why and this makes it even harder.
- Cardinal Law covered up clergy sex abuse, and then was promoted to Rome.
- Disgust, deep and shared feelings of betrayed by the clergy.
- Love God, Jesus and the Eucharist; don't abandon Jesus because of what priests have done
- Faith in God is strong but betrayed by the clergy.
- Anger, disillusion, disgust at the betrayal by the bishops, cardinals, and the Pope.
- The people of God have been betrayed.
- Victims have been treated horribly.
- What about today; prevention is essential.
- Disgust, betrayal, loss of moral authority.
- Priests committed criminal acts; bishop's cover up is criminal also
- Bishops protected themselves and priests abusers at the expense of children and families
- Need for cleansing, rebirth; holding hierarchy responsible.
- Betrayal, sadness, disgust.
- Wonder what will enable the Church to be believed again; respect is lost.
- Fear for the future, betrayal that the church has not done enough to prevent this kind of abuse. Priest are not properly screened.
- Betrayal, frustration with leadership, sadness, failure, lack of commitment
- Sadness, fear for the future of the Church, disappointment and betrayal in the lack of action taken. A lack of hope that church will act and do what is right.
- Sadness for victims and the Church, some anger at the Church for not taking steps.
- A lot of sadness and betrayal, anger and fear.

- A clear and compelling consensus of how sad the situation is
- Anger and shame
- Hard not to be angry
- That there are personal connections to some people and they have been hurt by the Church
- Sadness, anger and confusion
- Anger, sadness and not knowing what to do about this situation
- Sadness, anger and confusion
- A need for change and a shared distrust of the Catholic Church
- Anger, Heartache, Shame, Hope
- Anger, Sadness, shame
- Other people are concerned about the real presence of Jesus in the eucharist
- Betrayed, Angry, upset, major cause for people looking down on the catholic church
- Confusion, thinking am I doing the right thing by staying?
- The fathers of our church who are supposed to take care of us are leading us astray.
- Difficult for people to solely focus on their feelings. This crisis brings up a lot of pain.
- I heard a lot of frustration. No one really knows what is happening, We are told one thing, then we read another thing.”
- I heard hopelessness and despair.
- Anger
- Strong sense of betrayal
- Betrayal – this is not a surface wound. It runs deep.

Courageous Conversation #2: On Roots and Causes

What are the two or three most important factors that you identify as the root causes of the Catholic Church Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis?

- The drive to maintain the image of the Church at all costs.
- There are no checks and balances without female priests.
- I don't feel I know enough to comment)
- Predators do things even though they know it is not right.
- I wish I was smart enough to know.
- Image more important than anything, but this may not be the root.
- So many factors.
- I don't think they would be pedophiles if priests were allowed to marry.
- Lack of married people and women in Church leadership, like in the early Church. Going back to this would find better people.
- We have lost a sense of community.
- Making celibacy a condition to be a priest.
- The bishop's failure to take action.

- Moving clergy around; good old boy system.
- Treating the Church as a private club.
- Not screening seminarians well.
- Treating institutional change ineffectively.
- Seminary formation and ongoing human formation is not being done well.
- Revisit celibacy and the vow of chastity.
- Cover-up encouraged more abuse.
- No consequences for the perpetrators.
- Illusion of curing pedophilia.
- Moving priests around.
- Parents trusted priests more than their kids.
- Bishops are the root cause; no consequences for abusers or for those who covered up abuse.
- Accountability is lacking up the ranks.
- Cover-up; moving priests.
- People enter the priesthood for the wrong reasons, such as escape.
- The church is trying to protect itself and not the victims.
- Individual bishops fostering the belief that the church is more important than the victims.
- Agree with above. Also, the abusive priests are good at manipulating families and people. The children are scared to speak up, because it's a priest.
- Hierarchy believed that predators could be "fixed". So they were sent away, switched parishes, believed to be cured of their issues. This is not necessarily a cover up, but these people were honestly believed to be cured. We now know that wasn't true.
- Personal experience: A priest friend of mine was very experienced in the psychological profiles of seminarians and priests, and said that not enough is being done to assess seminarians. He knew there was a problem years ago.
- Agree with the fact that seminarians aren't screened enough. However, the main problem is homosexuality. There is a big gap between the American Bishops and the Holy Church. The Holy Church is afraid of being called homophobic, and so they shy away from taking action.
- There is a lack of support for priests. Priests are human, and sent to a parish to live alone, and usually without any accountability but themselves. It makes it easier to fall into the sins they might have struggled with before becoming a priest.
- The church is scared of what would happen to itself if they published everything regularly, or earlier.
- I think that the Church covers things up because they are afraid of losing people.
- The hierarchical structure of the church
- Bad seminary training
- Bishops are forgetting that we are a "priesthood of all believers"
- The sheltered way that the priests live
- That priests can't be married
- Lack of accountability for priests - the fact that they can live alone
- Lack of accountability in the church hierarchy to the people they serve

- Moving priests around
- Victims don't get a voice when abuse happens
- Priests are afraid to confront their sins head on and get the help that they need
- Hierarchical structure of the Church
- Victims and families not having a voice because you could ruin the reputation of the Church
- No marriage for priests
- Cover up because priests should be treated like all sex offenders
- Lack of women in the priesthood
- Silence, no one said anything even if they saw. Why and how could that be?
- Silence, homosexuality in the church, because most of the ones abused by the priests are boys.
- **Lack of accountability and leadership in the church.**
- Priests not being allowed to marry, The church would attract more healthy normal people, Women should also be able to be priests.
- Shortage of priests in the church so the ones in charge are accepting anyone who is willing to be a priest and some aren't good.
- Religious parents pushing their children to join religious life. They do it to please others even if it's not their true vocation.
- Silence, a lack of accountability for all involved.
- **Certain clergy in the church feel entitled to do what they want. They feel above the law.**
- Homosexuality, need for priests drew in homosexual men. Started a long time ago.
- "I've been around priests/nuns my whole life. I want to give benefit of the doubt to church, but I have not gotten any clarity. The problem was dismissed early on, and so it continued to be swept under rug until it became a bigger problem. Could be seminary system, priests not getting married."
- The root problem is priests with homosexual attraction. 85% of abuse is of young men, causing many to leave the church.
- 85% of abuse is young men, not pedophilia. Caused by homosexual priests. Abuse was covered up because people would not blame homosexuality and there would not be an unmasking of bigger issue. Huge faction of church leaders covers up and promotes by giving abusers more power.
- Root cause is a lack of prayer and humility in lives of the abusers."
- Lack of prayer. Vocation leaders who decide what priests should be ordained are not discerning properly"

Courageous Conversation #3: Speaking Our Truth

What are the two or three most important things that you want church leadership (any level- you may name the roles or levels in your comments if you wish) to be aware of as they and we consider how to respond? I want church leadership to know....

- The Pope should reevaluate and make changes to the constitution of the Catholic religion.
- Leaders should take responsibility if and when they covered up criminal acts.
- The Pope should listen to people around the world. Advisors should be open to the "mind of Jesus".

- We have to get back to basics.
- The Church should be willing to be more in tune with people of 2018, not always falling back on “the way its’ always been and the way we have always done it.”
- Leadership should be more open about sharing what happened to the abusers.
- It’s just the Church that has pedophiles; other congregations don’t impose celibacy.
- Don’t “lawyer up;” should not have lawyers for the accused.
- Bring outsiders in to evaluate the situation.
- Study the possible attraction of the Church to pedophiles.
- Laity holds the Vatican responsible. Let the laity step up; Pope Francis must follow through.
- Our faith in God is strong but we will lose people and money.
- How profoundly betrayed and angry we feel; it must be cleaned up for all.
- We need new leadership, a cleansing.
- Transparency is essential; what is being done?
- Rome must realize this is criminal behavior.
- Feels like a cover-up.
- Accountability at every level with Zero tolerance.
- Formally written protocols at parish and every level; assurance of no repetition.
- Transparency; we need to have open and honest conversations at the parish level.
- Talk about abuse from the altar.
- If faithful people leave, who and what is left?
- We have lost trust in the clergy.
- Accountability from an outside source.
- Timing matters; act sooner.
- I expect the hierarchy at every level to give complete honesty. Otherwise, it will be death for the Church. Honesty is absolutely imperative.
- Agree with the honesty. Transparency is key. These things have happened before, and were buried. It starts at the top - we need clear, supportive leadership.
- Yes to Transparency - The Church must be courageous in transparency. The hierarchy needs to be aware of the potentiality for these things happening, and they need to move forward boldly, no matter what.
- Agree to transparency. The biggest enemy is the church itself. The hierarchy needs to include every level, from Pope to laity. Laity Isn’t involved enough in anything, and their opinions are being ignored. The church IS the laity.
- The church still doesn’t deal with victims well.
- The Vatican doesn’t realize how angry the laity is - this is huge, especially when the Vatican told Baltimore they couldn’t address the problem. Transparency is huge.
- I think we need more transparency, and more support for priests.
- The Church does need to be bold, and to move forward in faith without fear of who they lose.
- Any priests, bishops, or pope should be removed from the priesthood if they are an offender or if they have any role in hiding it anymore.
- The option of covering abuse up no longer exists.

- It is better to name and address issues head on
- Listen more to victims and realize how terribly harmful sexual abuse is for victims and families
- Bishops and parish priests need to make visible changes
- Church needs to listen to victims more
- Church needs to be transparent about seminary training and selection
- The lay people are not going to sit back any longer
- Have parents tell kids that they should be aware of priests as dangerous, just like any other stranger
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Lack of involvement of the lay people
- Priest offenders should be prosecuted in a criminal court
- I have lost my faith because it has been 16 years since the 2002 exposure
- There should be a quarterly report to keep us informed of how things are changing for the better
- Church leaders need to own this problem and give no special treatment for priests
- Bishop, this is the message of Fatima that this was going to happen. Look at the messages of Fatima. Good people are committed to turn this around.
- Rules of becoming a priest need to be changed. Being celibate is not normal. You will wind up having more homosexuals. The church should allow priests to marry.
- In eastern rite they get to choose celibacy or not. We should be the same.
- Priests should be telling people what they hear in confession when it involves child sexual abuse. There is no consequence for those who confess.
- Individuals NEED to be held accountable. No one is above consequences.
- Bishops need to know there is anger and people need to be heard. Can't shut the door anymore, need to hear how people feel and what we think. Then the Bishop needs to respond.
- It needs to be an ongoing conversation from now on in the church. Honesty is encouraged and required. As well as consequences for those who do bad.
- Bishops or priests should be emphasizing the personal relationship with God over everything else."
- "Church leaders need to be aware of lack of love and real relationship with God as they discern seminarians who are worthy of being a priest."
- To Bishop Dwayne: Why have invited Fr. Tom Rosica to be the keynote speaker for Venice Diocese priest event? Please vet who you are choosing to teach our priests at this time."
- I want church leadership to speak the truth. Start at St John's. Priests need to address the issue."
- Church leadership must speak the truth. There is only one truth. I want to know the truth rather than each person speaking their own truth."

Courageous Conversation #4: What now? What next?

All of this says to me that...

- When or if sexual abuse is brought into the light, it will be addressed and corrected.
- The Church must be 110% transparent with the congregation – in all things.
- The clergy work for the people in the parish – they work for and with us.

- Something needs to be done to correct this; I don't know what.
- Those who created this mess, including Bishops and the Pope, need to fix it.
- The situation has not yet been corrected. The Pope must take concrete steps.
- The accused need criminal prosecution in the court of law
- Bishops must hold themselves and each other accountable.
- Time is of the essence.
- The clean-up of this mess cannot be compromised.
- The Church needs to investigate the seminaries where the abusers were trained.
- We are desperate; we want to have trust and faith in our Church. Please help us by being trustworthy.
- Seething anger, discontent, disappointment, disgust with the hierarchy thinking they are the Church. We are all the Church, and we want to do our part.
- Betrayal at the highest levels of the Church can become normalized. We must prevent this from happening again in the future.
- Leadership of the Church needs to be evaluated, replaced if necessary, based on what has happened, immediately.
- Rules and procedures implemented must be made public and shared. Our entire community needs to make our Church and our society safe for every child, including altar boys and girls.
- Level of disgust by laity demands swift and definite action by leadership.
- People are bewildered, confused, angry, frustrated. Better get this right.
- Deep sadness, anger. inaction is unacceptable; this must be addressed.
- Keep us informed.
- The real problem that needs to be addressed: either more screening or more support for priests (or both). There is clearly a lack of trust between laity, the clergy, and Holy C. The laity believes that this issue is a make or break issue for the church. They think that this could bury the church.
- The Church needs to be honest, transparent, contrite, and to seek real solutions to their problem (whether screening priests, or rooting out the offenders, even bishops). The Church needs to take action, not hide behind "the church."
- I agree with the need for transparency. There definitely needs to be better screening of candidates. We need to support priests by praying for priests - there are lot of good men, who are struggling.
- The laity is sad, fearful, and angry. The hierarchy has simply failed us - it's time to clean house, however painful that may be.
- The church is at a crossroads, between Catholic values and canon law, or succumbing to secularism. There is a lack of leadership, and a failure in the organization. The root cause is homosexuality, and that's scary, because it gets completely buried. That is the failure of the leadership.
- Something is clearly wrong - if the people do not know what is happening in the church, then something is wrong. There needs to be more transparency, because the Church is going to lose more people by hiding things than they will by telling all. We want honesty, and an actual answer.
- The Bishop needs to appreciate what we have talked about
- The diocese should bring an end to this with solutions that we get to review and assist with.
- I have mixed feelings about this topic because there are things that are not well presented by the Church
- We must stay strong and not let this make us give up our faith
- We must be heard and cannot continue in this pattern of being kept uninformed or in the dark

- This is our faith and we need to take actions that get this right.
- The Clergy sex abuse crisis is not a surprise to me
- We need not just words but actions
- There should be an advisory committee at the parish level at St. John's and at the diocesan levels
- The priests should wear purple even before advent to symbolize their penance
- Bishop Dewayne must read our responses and give us feedback on our responses
- We should not give up on this and that we should have more conversations and meetings
- A report should be sent to the parish about this so they know what was heard and spoken
- We want to be involved as lay people
- We are considering financial withdrawal to get the attention of the Church that this must stop
- These Courageous Conversation should be happening in every parish
- Everyone is upset, leaders should reconsider requirements for priests. We aren't attracting normal healthy men to be priests. Women should be allowed to be priests.
- Priests need to see psychologists. Nurses and Doctors have to go through psychiatric testing. Check mental stability not just once but every so often.
- Priests should not have to be celibate, go through psychiatric help. Accountability and consequence.
- Faithful Catholics want action NOW. We've been held off for a long time. This conversation is a wonderful opportunity. I don't want to leave the church. I just need to see change soon.
- Good to talk, a lot of change needs to happen. This should make people dive deeper into faith, "Why am I Catholic?"
- Lay people need to independently support priests.
- People do not know the fundamentals of church teaching.
- All of this says to me that we the church are hurting, and we should have answers."
- The church needs to teach what love is. Too much focus on money in the Church rather than important things."
- We need to get the truth, otherwise people will leave the Catholic Church. Do you want to be in a church that betrays you? Concerned that people will leave the Church, funding for Church will continue to decrease."
- I think the church is very close to a schism. Faithful Catholics may be pushed out of the church. I think the hope lies with the laity and good faithful priests. It hurts my heart for the good and faithful priests who receive abuse. The word "love" has been redefined. It is not love to encourage homosexual attraction. Follow the law when it comes to annulment and receiving communion. Love without truth is not love"
- It is about remorsefulness, closeness to the Lord is the key. It is very difficult for cradle Catholics to reinvent their faith. The Church needs to be more remorseful and empty themselves to the laity.

Gratitude Conversation: I am glad I was here because or one gift I received is ...

- I was able to speak what is in my heart and on my mind.
- Strong sharing and unity of common concerns.
- So glad for this opportunity to express feelings and hopes.
- This conversation has given me hope for growth and change.

- Written record to convince the bishops (including ours) to act; Courage to do the right thing.
- I have hope for more conversations like this and bishop will hear our voices; he must listen.
- I was able to hear what others had to say.
- My feelings are not that removed from others in our community. I'm not alone
- I met the courageous mother of a child who was sexually abused by a priest. She still cares enough about her faith and about the Church to be here. Amazing.
- I was able to share and tell the story of my child's abuse.
- I found out that a lot of people feel the same as I do.
- After listening to others, I don't have to give up hope in the Church. I have more hope now.
- I might be a little more patient because others feel the same as I do.
- I have hope and a reason to try again to help our Church get this right.
- I am grateful to realize that we all share a foundation in Jesus.
- I'm a new convert. I am very grateful that other people are willing to talk about it, and that other people are feeling angry and sad about this as I am.
- In listening, I realized that my thoughts are similar to all of yours. Other people feel the same way. A gift to me was being with the other people here.
- This is the first time that I've been in a group that we only listened, respected, and reflected without judgement. Also, I'm thankful that these comments are going to be read by bishops and other people in charge. Powerful.
- I am grateful that the laity are more in unison than the religious orders are. We share more as laity, and I am grateful that we are in unison.
- I'm grateful that I was here. I've heard a lot from the church, but I wasn't personally asked how I felt. Hearing other people's perspectives gave me the freedom to feel what I was feeling.
- Solidarity with other Catholics re our concerns and feelings is reassuring and helpful. People - especially young people sharing their opinions is a gift that I received in this conversation.
- I am not alone and we are not alone. That gives me hope.
- I am grateful for this conversation as a first step. I hope that something comes of it.
- I am a hopeful person by nature, but I am a doubting Thomas in this situation.
- Grateful because I got to hear different experiences from other Catholics
- Grateful for the St. Paul/Minneapolis Bishop who handled the situation well up there
- Grateful that we can be a voice for the victims and I hope that we are heard
- There are a lot more people that have something to say about this.
- I am grateful to know that there is unity across all generations and even if the clergy seem like they are not responding, we as lay people have the necessary unity and support to get something going
- I can share what knowledge I have with the public and practice my faith sincerely. I feel encouraged and we can encourage each other in church to practice our faith.
- I am grateful for this safe place to discuss and share our thoughts and feelings. I didn't feel judged and that made all the difference. Thank you so much.
- I am grateful for the gift of hope that I received in our conversation and listening.
- I received the gift of hope and the beginning of healing
- I am grateful for so many resources here, especially the people. We are part of a beautiful church. This is a terrific program as a way to talk about important things. Holy Spirit needs to lead the church.

- I realized that there are good Catholics. I hope the bishops do something about the crisis.
- The conversation, opportunity for people to speak about these things is what we need. This is not a new problem. I better understand that people come from different backgrounds.
- Grateful for everyone taking time to come and share their thoughts and feelings. People complain about the issue but aren't willing to help. I hope more people start to do something.
- I'm grateful I was in the conversation because I got to meet you all."
- I am grateful because I heard other opinions which helped me to think about my own.
- I'm grateful because I heard a message that it is about the love of God. We need to remember that now. We have to do something about it.
- I'm grateful to have been able to say what has been on my heart for so long. I am inspired to see young adults who have a relationship with God. I feel hopeful because of the young generation who loves God.
- I am grateful to hear other perspectives. It is great to have hope in the future of each of our lives and for our mission to follow God. We have all been given a mission from God.
- I am grateful because I was able to hear a lot of input. The gift that I received is that I have a lot of people to pray with and ideas to pray about.