

## My Heart is Broken

22<sup>nd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time - September 2, 2018 - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

I admit that it is very difficult to hear of more sexual abuse by Catholic priests and bishops that has come to light in the recent weeks. My heart is broken. It is broken by the news of this terrible sin and crime committed by those who were entrusted with the very innocence of young life. My heart is broken for the victims, children, not of age, who were groomed, exploited, abused, ignored and then blamed for the sins and crimes of their perpetrators. My heart is broken by the cover-up and scandal that has ensued. My heart is broken for all people, men, women and children who have been victims of any form of abuse.

My heart is broken for the priests and bishops who have never done anything like this and bear the shame and the criticism of this truth. My heart is broken for all of you who might be wondering if you can continue this journey of faith in the over-reaching dark shadow of this evil. It is hard, especially with a broken heart.

I have no answers. I have no quick witty comebacks or inspiring solutions. I am a Catholic who loves the Church. I love the Eucharist, the sacraments and our ritual way of life. I love all of you, my Catholic brothers and sisters. I love the world and the beauty of all creation. And yet, at the same time my heart is broken. Seriously broken.

Amid all of this, I have turned to prayer and to my faith in Jesus to guide my broken heart and the brokenness within the Church back to Christ. Jesus' words this week seem fitting as it speaks a truth about the reality of the human condition. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

May we learn from this and may we commit ourselves to reform in the Church and in the world. Let us work for all people throughout the entire world so no one will suffer at the hand of another, changing lives for the better, which is the commission of Christ.

Blessings!

Sue Schettler