

## From Fr. Michael

*In the mail this week, all parishioners should have received a letter from me along with a statement from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and St. John's Abbey sharing some very sad news from the history of our St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community. I want to reprint those statements here to help ensure that all parishioners are informed. First, my words:*

I was recently informed by officials from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and officials from St. John's Abbey of a report concerning the sexual abuse of a minor at St. Bartholomew some 37 years ago. The details of the case are described in the enclosed statement from the Archdiocese and the Abbey. (You may recall that the priests who served St. Bartholomew were Benedictine priests from St. John's Abbey until the mid 1980s.)

It grieves me to learn, for the first time, that this tragedy of sexual abuse in the church has directly touched this St. Bartholomew Community. I think that, particularly for those of you who were here in 1969, this incident brings this formerly-distant phenomenon close to home. I know that we will all want to pray for this unnamed victim and anyone else who may have been harmed by the sin of sexual abuse.

Upon reviewing the material sent to me by the Archdiocese and the Abbey, it has helped me to keep in mind the following facts as we begin to work through this together:

- This case is 37 years old.
- There are no other known victims.
- Fr. Blumeyer is deceased and unable to speak for himself.
- There is no legal action pending against St. Bartholomew, the Abbey, or the Archdiocese.
- The assets of St. Bartholomew Community are not at risk.

Although this case is not likely to become a major news story, it is important that you, as St. Bartholomew parishioners, are fully informed. In addition, Abbott John Klassen of St. John's Abbey will be coming to St. Bartholomew for a parish meeting to be held on **Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.** This will be an opportunity for you to

become more fully informed, to ask any questions you may have, and to voice your concerns. Catholic parishioners from Hastings (where Fr. Blumeyer also served) will be invited to this meeting as well.

*And now, the statement from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and St. John's Abbey:*

In September, 2005, a 50-year-old man informed the Victim Advocate of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis that he was sexually abused as a young man by the late Father Robert Blumeyer, O.S.B., a priest of the St. John's monastic community. The report has been deemed credible.

The abuse began in 1969 when the victim was 13 and Father Blumeyer was assistant pastor at St. Bartholomew parish in Wayzata and continued for approximately ten years while Father Blumeyer served in pastoral roles at St. Boniface Parish in Hastings and St. Benedict Parish in Avon, MN. Father Blumeyer died October 5, 1983.

The Archdiocese and Abbey have paid for therapy for the man and he has accepted a financial settlement from St. John's Abbey and the Archdiocese.

Neither the Archdiocese nor the Abbey knows of other allegations of abuse against Father Blumeyer.

In making this statement, Archbishop Harry Flynn and Abbot John Klassen express deep regret and remorse and reaffirm a commitment to assist this victim and other victims in their process of recovery and healing.

The victim advocate for the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese is Ms. Aneta Sawyer: 651-291-4497.

The victim advocate for St. John's Abbey is Gary Schoener at the Walk-In Counseling Center: 612-870-0565.

## STAPLES NEEDED FOR IOCP FOODSHELF



The FoodShelf is in need of baked (or other) beans, cream soups, packaged potatoes, tuna, tomato products, honey, mac & cheese and sugar. **Huge quantities of these items are needed which continue to be unavailable for purchase at the food bank.** Leave your donations in the baskets in Narthex or take directly to IOCP.

Also, we extend a million thanks for supporting the 2006 Minnesota FoodShare effort. To date, 41,786 pounds of food and \$10,294 have been donated locally to help local families. As you know, the need is always there. You're the best!

## Focus on Justice

"There is enough in the world for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."

- Mahatma Gandhi

## EMPTY BOWLS

*A soup dinner sponsored by the Art Dept. of Wayzata High School.*

**Thursday, May 25 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
in the high school cafeteria.



A suggested donation of \$10 includes both the soup dinner and your choice of a handmade bowl in which it is served, created by the students of Wayzata High. Soup is donated by Sunset's and Panera Restaurants and bread by Breadsmith. All proceeds go to support the IOCP Foodshelf. Tickets may be purchased from IOCP.