

No Headline

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Blame diocese for any cuts at church

Parishioners of St. Peter's in Geneva have been educated through the church's weekly bulletin over the past couple of months as to the various expenses incurred by the parish from such things as heating expenses, mailing envelopes and even the expenses incurred for snow removal.

In addition, the parish recently sent a letter to families sending their children to the parish school indicating that tuition may have to be raised next year due to the financial condition of the parish.

Have the diocese's lawyers aligned themselves with Father Mark **Campobello's** attorneys in an attempt to block the release of the diocese's own investigative report on what really occurred with regard to the allegations of Father **Campobello's** sexual abuse of a minor in 1999?

Isn't an expeditious court ruling something the diocese has said it wanted all along?

Despite attempts by St. Peter's parish to say otherwise, I still wonder if a portion of the hard-earned money that parishioners contribute each week makes its way to the diocese to pay the high-powered, Chicago-based law firm that is fighting to conceal the truth. Unless Bishop Thomas Doran has a money tree in his back yard, the money has to come from somewhere. From what I understand, some money from St. Peter's collections does go to the diocese.

The lawyers of the diocese are very grateful to all parishioners who willingly contribute to the parish ... because without you, they wouldn't get paid. Myself, as well as many other parishioners, have chosen to donate to worthy Catholic charities that do not tacitly support alleged sexual predators and who believe in the concepts of openness, truth and justice ... not denial and concealment.

Some will argue it is wrong to stop giving to the parish and that it serves no purpose. I, and others, contend that so long as a diocese and a parish act in way that is so inconsistent with the principles of our Catholic faith, we cannot in good conscience support them financially.

A bishop who preaches openness about sexual abuse and does not practice it does not merit the blind support of the Catholic faithful. If enough people do the same, believe me, you will see our diocese and parish change their tune. The fear of losing its financial base scares the Catholic church like nothing else. Sadly, the Catholic church is not a democracy, and money is the only way parishioners' voices are heard. And if a parish pastor does not voice his opposition to what the diocese is doing, then he is also part of the problem.

If programs and/or staff are cut at St. Peter's, place the blame where it belongs ... right at the doorstep of Bishop Doran, for what I believe are misguided efforts to cover up a tragedy rather than dealing honestly and openly with it.

It is a shame that the parishioners of St. Peter's are being asked to reach deeper into their pockets to pay for Bishop Doran's folly.

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