

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
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SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

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Video Message of the Holy Father with the prayer intention for the month of March, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The following is the text of the Pope's video with the prayer intention for the month of March, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, on the theme: *"Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering"*:

Video Message of the Holy Father

In response to cases of abuse, especially to those committed by members of the Church, it's not enough to ask for forgiveness.

Asking for forgiveness is necessary, but it is not enough. Asking for forgiveness is good for the victims, but they are the ones who have to be "at the center" of everything.

Their pain and their psychological wounds can begin to heal if they find answers —if there are concrete actions to repair the horrors they have suffered and to prevent them from happening again.

The Church cannot try to hide the tragedy of abuse of any kind. Nor when the abuse takes place in families, in clubs, or in other types of institutions.

The Church must serve as a model to help solve the issue and bring it to light in society and in families.

The Church must offer safe spaces for victims to be heard, supported psychologically, and protected.

Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.