From: A Child of God 2nd pew, Right Side Atlanta, GA USA Email: Click envelope Date: Friday Feb. 22, 2019

To: Fr Hans Zollner, SJ **President of Ctr for Child Protection** Collegio Bellarmino Via del Seminario 120 00186 ROMA Italia Email: <u>childprotection@unigre.it</u> +39 06 40048453 *CC: Pope Francis*



My View from the Pew: A Response to the 21 Points Issued by Pope Francis on 2.21.19

Dear Pope Francis and Fr. Zollner,

Thank you for your continued fight to protect our children, teens and young adults as they seek to find Our Lord through the beauty of the Catholic Church. We are praying and fasting for you in this CRITICAL time in our Church. You were born for this moment! Be bold and courageous! Be who God called you to be for such a time as this! The Holy Spirit is guiding you – trust, surrender and believe! This is a global institutional crisis for our Church that can only be solved with global repentance, global reparation and global reform!

Do you want to know what those of us still left in the pews are praying for? We pray for an end to this culture of institutional protection of abusers over our precious children. We pray for courageous, inspiring leaders focused on honest transparency and independently reviewed accountability. We pray that ALL clergy will embrace their commitment to chastity and fidelity to Church teaching, boldly challenging the laity to embrace our chastity and understanding of the beauty and truths of the Church as well. And most importantly, we pray for a safe environment for all in a purified, resurrected Church where souls can find Jesus Christ – body, blood, soul and divinity - elevated, glorified, praised, imitated and loved.

Thank you and Pope Francis for starting the conversation yesterday with 21 points to ponder and discuss. As someone who has accompanied the mother of an abuse survivor for the last two years, we have unfortunately personally witnessed the lonely, gut wrenchingly painful and confusing path that so many victims are forced to walk *after* reporting abuse to our Catholic school and Church officials. While praying and fasting for her son *and* his abuser, we wrestled with how we could reform this process to make it more efficient and productive AND how to keep our church environments safer for our children, teens and young adults. I humbly offer these responses to your points with one important addition.

Global Reparation – Please consider international opportunities for simultaneous monthly masses of reparation, adoration hours or special prayers (rosary) that the whole world can participate it in unison. This is a global problem and we need to unite the body of Christ to pray together for healing and reform. Two ideas: Invite every Catholic Church to ring their bells at 3pm each Friday, asking all to stop and say the Divine Mercy Chaplet together and to invite other denominations to join in a global prayer for healing of all sexual abuse and brokenness of our world like sexual confusion, sexual perversion, abortion, sex trafficking and pornography. Thank you for reading these suggestions!