

Most Sacred Heart Church

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Statement of Fr. Alex Anderson

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In the Gospel of St Matthew, the Lord exhorts us to "turn the other cheek" (5:39). No one interprets this to mean, however, that He wants our lives to be used as doormats.

A priest without a good name is like a carpenter without a hammer. He may be the best carpenter in the world, but no one will ever know, and no one will ever call upon him for help. In justice, and in order to continue in my work as a priest and pastor, I need and I am certainly entitled to the restoration of my honor.

We must all take responsibility for our actions. If I had done to my accuser what he claims I did, I would have to suffer the consequences. In fairness, he should now take responsibility for what he has done. Therefore, it is only reasonable and fair, I believe, that within a week of receiving this message, Arthur Andreas withdraws his allegations of sexual abuse against me and makes an apology for the damage and disruption he has caused to me, to Sacred Heart Parish, and to anyone else associated with this situation. Failure to do so will result in legal action against him for slander.

If I was the only one affected by these events, I would be inclined to let it go. But I am not. The future reputation of too many innocent people - priests, coaches, teachers, volunteers and all those who work with children is at stake here. In a genuine effort to protect the innocence of children, let us not lose sight of fairness and honesty.