

Holy Family Church

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From the desk of the Pastor of Holy Family Parish
August 18, 2007

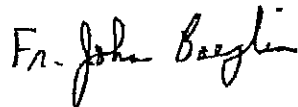
Reference: Monsignor Othmar Schroeder

Memo: To the Media, Parish and Diocese of Evansville

I am truly sorry for all those who have been hurt by recent revelation concerning the late Msgr. Othmar Schroeder, founding pastor of Holy Family Parish. I feel truly sorry for those who have carried a heavy burden from their past relationship with Msgr. Schroeder. I feel truly sorry for the Schroeder family and for Holy Family Parish who are also deeply hurt by this recent revelation. As a Diocese and a Catholic faith community we do have a moral responsibility to respond by removing any reminders which prevent victims to be healed of hurts from long ago. Msgr. Schroeder did give his life for the Church. He made many personal sacrifices to be the founding pastor of Holy Family Parish and to be its first shepherd for 27 years.

Hopefully by publicly acknowledging those who have been hurt in the past, we can now move forward. Jesus, our Savior, died on the cross to forgive all of us of our sins. Just as Jesus has forgiven us, Jesus challenges us to forgive each other of their sins. Let us pray for healing and forgiveness among ourselves. My prayers go out to those who have carried the heavy burden being hurt by leaders of our faith. I beg your forgiveness and ask that God give you a heart to forgive the past and our Church. My prayers of healing and forgiveness go out to the Schroeder family and our parish family that we can move forward. No one is free from sin, even leaders of faith communities. We must all acknowledge our sinfulness and ask God and our neighbor to forgive us. St. Francis of Assisi once said "that it is in pardoning that we are pardoned". Let us begin anew seeking God's powerful healing grace to renew our local faith community.

Sincerely yours,



Fr. John Boeglin

Pastor