

Lost Sheep Vigil at St. Raphael's Parish, East Meadow

Sunday, February 15, 2009

On February 3, Newsday reported that Father Kenneth Hasselbach was arrested in Florida on charges of possessing child pornography. He also admitted to chatting online with underage boys about their first sexual experiences. If convicted, he faces a possible 10-year sentence in prison.

In 1994, Fr. Hasselbach was accused of molesting a 12-year old boy 20 years earlier while serving at St. Raphael's parish in East Meadow, and according to a Newsday article, was allowed to retire quietly. (In 2002, in an interview with Newsday, he admitted fondling the boy).

Please join us at St. Raphael's parish on Sunday, February 15 as we reach out to any others who may have been victimized by Fr. Hasselbach or any other priests or church employees who have served at St. Raphael's. According to the Bishop Accountability website, there have been credible allegations of abuse against 6 priests who have served there (in addition to Fr. Hasselbach), and a youth minister who was accused of, and pleaded guilty to, 4 counts of rape and sodomy of underage parishioners.

We will gather at 9:45 a.m. to pray together before attending the 10:00 a.m. Mass; we will then distribute handouts after the Mass and before the 12 noon Mass.

Only one in ten of those who were abused have come forward. Please help us reach out to the Lost Sheep, those who are in need of healing.

Please wear red as a sign of solidarity.

Directions to St. Raphael's are below:

From Queens and the West, Along the North Shore of Long Island

Grand Central Parkway/Northern State Parkway East
To the Cross Island Expressway (South) or the Meadowbrook Parkway (South)
Cross Island or Meadowbrook to the Southern State Parkway East
Southern State Parkway East to Exit 25 North, "Route 106"
North on Route 106, Newbridge Road, for 1 mile
Go straight through the intersection of North Jerusalem Avenue
Church is on the left, behind the school building

From Eastern Long Island, Along the South Shore

Southern State Parkway West to Exit 25 North, "Route 106"
North on Route 106, Newbridge Road, for 1 mile
Go straight through the intersection of North Jerusalem Avenue
Church is on the left, behind the school building

From Eastern Long Island, Along the North Shore

Northern State Parkway West to the Wantagh Parkway South
Wantagh Parkway to the Southern State Parkway West
Southern State Parkway West to Exit 25 North, "Route 106"
North on Route 106, Newbridge Road, for 1 mile
Go straight through the intersection of North Jerusalem Avenue
Church is on the left, behind the school building