

On This Path We Are Not Alone

– Pope Francis

Retreat Focuses on Silent Reflection

More than 200 U.S. bishops gathered at Mundelein Seminary in northern Illinois for a weeklong retreat in response to a series of revelations of sex abuse among clergy last summer. The retreat included time for quiet reflection, silent meals, vespers, and opportunities for confession. The Preacher of the Papal Household, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, led the retreat.

At the opening of the retreat, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said,

“We carry with us these days the pain and hope of all who may feel let down by the Church. Yet, we find ourselves grateful for the reminder that the future does not rest with any of us alone, but rather belongs to God. Hope is to be found in Christ. In Him, hope becomes unshakable.”

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found in Christ.”**

Encouragement from the Holy See

In a letter to the U.S. bishops on New Year’s Day, Pope Francis expressed that “God’s faithful people and the Church’s mission continue to suffer greatly as a result of abuse of power and conscience and sexual abuse, and the poor way that they were handled, as well as the pain of seeing an episcopate lacking in unity and concentrated more on pointing fingers than on seeking paths of reconciliation.” At this time of crisis, “combatting

the culture of abuse, the loss of credibility, the resulting bewilderment and confusion, and the discrediting of our mission urgently demands of us a renewed and decisive approach to resolving conflicts,” he said. The Holy Father also urged unity among the bishops and encouraged them to “look to what is essential and to rid [themselves] of all that stands in the way of a clear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

