



A PRIVATE RETREAT

FOR PRIESTS WHO HAVE SURVIVED ABUSE

INVITATION

Spirit Fire is partnering with Most Rev. Edward Scharfenberger of Albany to host a private retreat for priests who are survivors of abuse.

Bishops and provincials are invited to sponsor attendance for priest(s).

Spirit Fire will accept inquiries and registrations directly by phone or text.

If requested, Spirit Fire can confirm registration and provide anonymous confirmation of attendance directly to bishops or provincials.

Spirit Fire urges each attendee to rely on his bishop or provincial for care and support. If requested, Spirit Fire helps first steps in that healing relationship.

Meticulous steps are taken to ensure privacy and safety for each priest and to create a healing space for each survivor to rest, regroup and renew.

PHONE/TEXT

703-660-6799 (*confidential*)

WHERE

Diocese of Albany
Siena College
515 Loudon Road
Latham, New York 12211

WHEN

Arrive: Monday, May 27, 2019

For 5pm Welcome Dinner

Depart: Friday, May 31, 2019

After 9am Mass

Registration for a July 8 to 12, 2019 retreat is also accepted.

Fee (all-inclusive): \$2,500

On-site trauma therapist, team
Four nights, 12 meals, snacks
23 hours of topical retreat work
Transportation costs excluded

SUMMARY

This Private Retreat is reserved for priests and offers reflections and discussion about lifelong challenges for abuse survivors in daily life. A five-day program, this retreat helps attendees build on their own talents and resilience, tap into their hard-won wisdom and rely on God's grace for wellness in the lasting wake of sexual abuse. This retreat is available to priests regardless of the age at which abuse occurred or the identity of the perpetrator(s).

SOME TOPICS

- Grieving privately when pastorally caring for parishes now
- Defusing cognitive distortions based on survivor shame
- Facing unresolved feelings to reduce symptoms of stress
- Breaking isolation to enrich solitude and prayer life
- Reducing ambivalence to improve relationships
- Learning practical steps like grounding in trigger-management

SOME FEATURES

- Quiet early mornings, with warm breakfast, writing/walking time
- Morning, afternoon, evening sessions, with fellowship
- Option to schedule private time with retreat leader or therapist
- Movie night on site, with refreshments
- Daily Mass, with confessions and anointing of sick available
- An evening Mass, dinner, discussion with hosting bishop
- Late night Rosary for insomniacs
- Spiritually uplifting camaraderie with fellow survivors of abuse

RETREAT LEADER

Rev. Kenneth Schmidt is pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage MI and a Licensed Professional Counselor. He co-founded Trauma Recovery Associates and currently serves as Executive Director. He has worked for over ten years with individuals and small groups of survivors and others providing a Catholic whole-life wellness program. A recommendation from Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley, Bishop of Kalamazoo, is available upon request.

RETREAT TEAM

Deacon Gary Riggi provides pastoral care for survivors of abuse in the diocese of Albany and is on the board of Joshua Mountain Ministries. He has worked for years with the homeless and addicted in urban Albany and marshalled talent and resources to rebuild homes destroyed in regional flooding. Additionally, trauma-informed therapists, who have been oriented by Spirit Fire in faith-sensitive counseling issues, will be on call as needed.

SPIRIT FIRE

Co-Founders, **Teresa Pitt Green** and **Luis A. Torres, Jr.**, will participate to offer peer support and encouragement. For over a decade, Teresa has provided retreats and workshops for survivors and priests, and Luis has participated in survivor men's groups. Spirit Fire is an association of Catholic survivors of clergy abuse who promote integrating faith in recovery from abuse among individuals, families, parishes—and the whole Church.