

**In the storm caused by the Report on Sexual Abuse in the French Church...
... Faith to get through the time of trial,
so that evil and lies do not prevail**



**Sr Véronique Margron, Dominican sister, theologian and current president of the
Conference of Religious Life in France (CORREF)**

I am not a catholic because of the priests, including the best ones. And there are plenty.
I am not a catholic because of the bishops, including all the authentic pastors, close to and servants of their community.
I am not a Catholic because of the Pope, not even the one most committed to the suffering of our time.

I am a Catholic because of God's love for the most vulnerable.
I am Catholic because of Jesus, the true man, mortal, like everyone.
I am Catholic because of Jesus, the Christ, a very authentic man, doing what he says, giving his whole life for those he loves: our precarious humanity, shaken and battered by the tragedy of life. Our humanity, sometimes shattered by predators, in the very heart of the house that should be the safest: the Church of Christ.
I am Catholic because of the Eucharist, where we become the body we receive. Where we are called to live the life of Christ, in the depths of our simple, ordinary lives. Without banners and without advertising.

I am a Catholic because I believe the word of God,
the word that tells me that my God has decided to make a covenant with humanity, to save it from slavery and despair. The Word of God that tells me about a God who decides, freely, out of pure love, to come and sit at the table of my existence. Of every existence, to share it.

I am a Catholic, and from the heart of the Church's winter,
where we are because of the monstrosity of the abuses and crimes and the way in which they have been stolen with impunity from the sight of justice and truth, I am determined to become a disciple of Christ day by day.
I believe with all my soul, with all my heart, with all my will and my poor intelligence, that evil and lies will not prevail.

This is my daily commitment and my hope. I beg that they will always be stronger than my anger, my grief and my overwhelming sorrow. Anger, grief and sorrow that are small compared to those of the victims.