



# *Hope, Healing & Solidarity*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **4/17 Healing service for survivors of sexual abuse/loved ones and 4/18 Educational workshop on “Moral injury”**

**Syracuse, NY** – Hope, Healing & Solidarity, will hold “Invitation to God's Healing Grace,” an ecumenical healing service, on April 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at **Le Moyne College’s Panasci Chapel**. The event is open to the community, including survivors of clergy sexual abuse, anyone impacted by any form of sexual abuse, loved ones of survivors, and those who wish to stand in solidarity. The event will offer a space for healing in the community and beyond. The service occurs during Sexual Abuse Awareness Month and will include inspirational readings, music and a symbolic ritual.

**Syracuse Bishop Douglas J. Lucia** will share the homily and a blessing at the service. “Bishop Lucia’s presence at this service is an important step in showing that the church is willing to listen, support, and walk alongside survivors. His attendance is not just symbolic—it is a recognition of the harm that has been done and a commitment to fostering a path toward healing and justice,” said Matthew FitzGibbons, event organizer and member of Hope, Healing & Solidarity.

On Sat. April 18, 2026 from 10AM to 3PM, Hope, Healing & Solidarity will present a workshop, including a light lunch, also at **Le Moyne College’s Panasci Chapel**. Dr. Lisa Cataldo (Fordham University Associate Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education) will present ““Moral injury and moral healing - recovery after betrayal” specifically in regard to sexual abuse within faith communities. Breakout groups will include skills for listening to survivors. After lunch will be a US preview performance of the play: *The Silencers*, by UK survivor Patrick Sandford, (a sequel to his award winning play: *Groomed*) about those who silence survivors.

These educational events are open to the public, and the media are welcome to attend. Video and audio recording of the service and participants are not permitted. Interviews may be audio or video recorded with permission. For more information contact us through our website: <https://hopehealingandsolidarity.org/>

Survivors, their families, and allies will have the opportunity to connect, find resources, and support one another on their healing journeys.

**About Hope Healing & Solidarity** Hope, Healing & Solidarity was formed in 2023 by local Catholics to promote a culture of human dignity whereby sexual abuse cannot exist in a Catholic environment and to walk with those who have been harmed/wounded by the church’s sexual abuse crisis. Our efforts include serving the needs of those abused, building community, healing and working to better protect our children from harm. For more information about the group visit our website: <https://hopehealingandsolidarity.org/>

*These events are supported in part by the Alden Street Foundation, Syracuse, NY (<https://aldenstreetfoundation.org>)*