

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

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To the Our Lady of Lourdes Community,

As your pastor for the last four years, I value and cherish the cultural diversity that comprises our parish community.

On Good Friday, a Passion play was held at Our Lady of Lourdes that included a depiction of Judas Iscariot after he had hung himself for betraying Jesus. The display was removed immediately following the conclusion of the play. While the entire Passion play is meant to reflect the events surrounding Jesus's final hours and ultimate resurrection, the depiction of a mannequin hanging outside from a tree should not have occurred.

I am deeply sorry to anyone in our parish and school family who was offended by this. I also send my most heartfelt apologies to the surrounding community as well and regret any hurt this caused anyone.

In the coming weeks, our parish community will hold meetings to talk through and share these concerns with the members of our community coordinating this event as to why this display was not appropriate.

Holy Week should focus on Christ's sacrifice for us and His Resurrection. I pray for and I continue to wish you and your family a very blessed Easter and Easter season.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim Begley