



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

A north American perspective on the crisis within Romanism by Rev. Andy Foster, Penticton.



'Father' John Geoghan (left) — in jail

On April 19th, NBC's "Dateline" broadcast a documentary entitled: "Cardinal sins", an investigation of the abuse scandal that is currently affecting the Roman Catholic diocese of Boston. Pressure is mounting on Cardinal Bernard Law to resign over allegations that he knowingly covered up the vile activities of many of his priests who have been exposed as serial paedophiles. An attorney interviewed in the programme who had represented more than 150 cases of

abuse victims, involving 45 different priests, stated: "The archdiocese of Boston was a haven for paedophiles". Several priests were specially focused on in the programme's investigation. One, 'Father' James Porter, is serving 18-20 years for molesting 29 children; another, 'Father' John Geoghan, is currently in jail for offences against more than 130 children in a variety of parishes he was appointed to in the Boston diocese; yet another, 'Father' Paul Shanley, was named as the perpetrator of abuse, and proved to be so in secret Roman Catholic Church files released by the courts, but has yet to be charged with any crime.

Several stunning facts emerged from Dateline's investigation:

The allegations of abuse levelled against these priests were known by Cardinal Law and other church officials for more than a decade before anything was done. In 'Father' Geoghan's case the first complaint against him was made in 1980 by a woman who witnessed his abuse of seven children in her care. A letter was later written in 1984 to Cardinal Law calling for action in this case. It would be another nine years before Geoghan was removed from Parish work; five more years until he was defrocked as a priest. In these fourteen years how many more children were abused by this monster? 'Father' Paul Shanley was first publicly accused of molesting a child in 1981 by a woman who had befriended the troubled teenager he assaulted. For years she tried to make herself heard as she repeatedly tried to have the matter investigated by church authorities. Finally, in 1987, she made personal contact with Cardinal Law — then Archbishop — and told him her story. Nothing was done. Later she met Cardinal Law again at a church service and told him her story for the second time. He directed her to his bishops but they refused to take up the matter either. In both these cases the Roman Catholic church knew long before any allegations were made by parishioners that these men were paedophiles. In these years, paedophile priests were moved by Cardinal Law from parish to parish without warning to their new charges and without explanation to their previous parishioners. Everything possible was done and is still being done to cover up the evil empire of molestation that has been presided over by Cardinal Law since 1984. Even now, the archdiocese of Boston when set-



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tling cases with abuse victims demands their silence as part of the settlement.

The priests involved made no real efforts to hide their guilt. In 1980 when confronted by an allegation, 'Father' Geoghan admitted to an investigating priest that he had done it but that "it was only two families" who were involved and so meant very little. Another abused child was told by Geoghan, "No one will ever believe you". 'Father' Paul Shanley was accused in 1981 of molesting a teenager and his response to the complainant was, "I did it, prove it!" The arrogance of Popery even when faced with such seemingly damning evidence is hard to take in. That arrogant spirit caused the Cardinal and his church authorities to continue for decades to cover up the crimes of men they knew were of the most vile and immoral character. Even in the so-called apologies that Cardinal Law has made, the hypocrisy and devilish deceit of Popery is evident. He has never condemned the evil actions of his priests. He has never faced up to what he did in years past, though he acted in full knowledge of what his priests were engaged in.

Highest level

The cover-up has now reached the highest level in the Church of Rome for the Pope has joined in. Cardinal Law has just returned from a special meeting with the Pope on this issue. He stated on his return that he was "encouraged" in his efforts to provide "the strongest possible leadership in ensuring that no child is ever abused again by a priest of this archdiocese." Evidently the Pope has encouraged him to carry on as he has done in the past! Just how he plans to ensure no child is ever abused in his diocese again, after refusing to deal with a matter that has been before the church in Boston for more than twenty years, he does not say!

PITY

It was truly pitiful to see the brokenness and despair of those whose lives have been ruined, first by the vile priests of Rome and then by the arrogant inactivity of the Church of Rome. One victim described his experiences like this, "I felt like I was the rabbit and he was the wolf and they protected him like a pack does." A pack of ravening wolves is a very fitting analogy to use of the predators that masquerade as the servants of God. It is tragic to see those whose lives have been so deeply scarred by the wolf still looking to the Cardinal and his priests for spiritual guidance.

Let every child of God certainly pray for the unmasking of Rome but more importantly for the removing of the blindness of heart that prevents poor Roman Catholics — and every other sinner — from seeing the beauty and holy tenderness of Christ.

The following link will take you to the full "Dateline" story

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/740606.asp>