



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Vatican guilty of years of cover-up



The apologetic statements, the handwringing, the theatricals of grief, enacted by bishops and cardinals across the world, were all a sham. The much-maligned critics of Rome in recent times were absolutely right. They were more right in their criticism than even they realised. Since 1962, the cover-ups and denials were but the outworking of an official response to sex-abuse scandals. The Vatican, during the popedom of the much heralded "saintly" Pope John 23rd, issued a policy document ordering a cover-up of all abuse scandals.

The UK newspaper, The Observer, has reported on the document, quoting from the 69-page directive which has been obtained by a US lawyer, Daniel Shea, who is acting for some of the alleged victims of abuse by Roman Catholic priests. The document, written in 1962 by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, was addressed to "all patriarchs, archbishops, bishops and other diocesan ordinaries." In it the Vatican gives instructions on the "manner of proceeding in cases of solicitations." The text, it adds, is to be "diligently stored in the secret archives... as strictly confidential. Nor is it to be published nor added to with any commentaries." The vile document, which bears the seal of Pope John XXIII, deals with what it calls the "worst crime" - "sexual assault committed by a priest" or "attempted by him with youths of either sex or with brute animals."

It threatened to excommunicate anyone who breaks his silence. Bishops were to pursue such cases "in the most secretive way . . . restrained by a perpetual silence . . . and everyone (including the alleged victim) . . . is to observe the strictest secret, which is commonly regarded as a secret of the Holy Office . . . under the penalty of excommunication."

#### Threat

Texan lawyer, Daniel Shea, said of the document: "It proves there was an international conspiracy by the Church to hush up sexual abuse issues. It is a devious attempt to conceal criminal conduct and is a blueprint for deception and concealment." "The oath says that everyone who participates in this proceeding has to keep this (secrecy) under threat of excommunication," explained Shea. Mr Shea said that he was given a copy of the Vatican directive by a Roman Catholic priest in Germany who has close dealings with the Vatican.

#### A crime

Shea said the document acknowledges sexual abuse of a minor as a serious crime and that current documents from the Catholic Church still refer to these secret hearings. "They understand fully that this is criminal conduct, yet they're hiding it by conducting secret church trials," he said. He handed a copy of the document to US authorities in late July. It will be most interesting to see their response.



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### Rocked

The Roman Catholic church world-wide has been rocked by revelations of sexual abuse by priests. The Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law (one of many senior clerics who were forced to resign) quit after he admitted he had covered up sexual abuse by priests for many years. The scandal has sparked hundreds of civil lawsuits by people who say they were abused by priests. Regarding the 1962 document, the Vatican has confirmed it is genuine but denied it was part of an organised cover-up!!!!

### Comment

Such is the true nature of the Church of Rome. It is all the things and more that godly men and women, on the basis of the Word of God, have said it to be over the centuries, even at the cost of their lives. When its evil doctrines and its evil actions are examined in the light of Holy Scripture, then we must conclude with the late Bishop J C Ryle, that Rome's doctrines spread "unholiness and immorality" (Five English Reformers, page 44). How could it do anything else?

### Consequences

When the leaders of that which professes to be the "Church of Christ," adopt a policy whereby they may conceal the vilest activities of its clerics and thereby sanction those crimes, then the end product can be nothing other than a flood-tide of wickedness and crime amongst its adherents and in every place it peddles its falsehoods. Rome is the deception of the devil; it is wickedness masquerading as righteousness; it is the archetypical wolf in sheep's clothing. May its people, so sadly duped and deceived and ill-served by their wicked priests, be alarmed and awakened by this latest exposure and see it as the kindness of God toward them.

### Prayer

Christian, pray for the Roman Catholic people that they may profit from this further exposing of the evil system of which they are a part and whose teaching, if they follow it, can lead only to hell.