



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The two-facedness of Roman Catholicism



Some 7-8 years before the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland admitted that priests had been guilty of child molestation, it took out insurance to cover claims against priests!

Victims of child sex abuse by priests in Ireland have expressed their anger at the Roman Catholic Church since this was made public. The revelation follows a record settlement at the beginning of February past and has fuelled growing resentment in Ireland against a church accused of prolonged cover-ups. Many abuse victims have brought claims against the Roman Catholic church in Ireland and it is not surprising therefore that it has such insurance. The Roman Catholic church in America is also drawing on its policies in the midst of hundreds of claims against clergy.

What is interesting is the timing. The Irish Roman Catholic bishops took out their policy in 1987, but it was only in the mid 1990s that the scale of clerical abuse of children emerged. Since then a series of revelations involving parish priests and monks has fuelled a disenchantment with a church that has traditionally been the foundation of society in the Irish Republic.

After this disclosure, the hierarchy's defence that it was ignorant of child sexual abuse is less convincing.

Victims' groups are furious. One commented that while they were not able to protect children, they were able to protect their wealth. A spokesman for the Church said that it had released the information about the insurance so the public would realise there was limited money available for claims, for the insurance has been capped at €9.2m.

It has paid out a record sum in a civil action brought by Mervyn Rundle. As a 10-year-old altar boy in 1985, he was repeatedly abused by a priest whom the church hierarchy had moved, following similar allegations against him. The priest was allowed to continue working in Mervyn's parish for some months until further complaints were made against him. He was later moved on to another parish for two years before being removed from active ministry.

It is the fervent prayer of every true Christian that the Roman Catholic people will be awakened to the evil system of which they are a part and see that it is not that "church" of which Christ spoke. Rather, it is part of the devil's counterfeit (ecumenical Protestantism being another part) which will take all who trust its false gospel to everlasting ruin.