

The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Rome's troubles continue

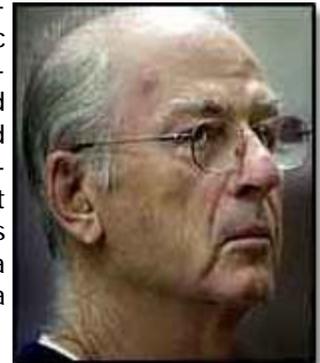


Cardinal Bernard Law
of Boston

Not since the days of the Protestant Reformation has Romanism been under such pressure. That organisation, renowned for its management of news about itself, finds itself under scrutiny and under attack from within its own ranks, from within the normally fawning world press and, of course, from those who love the Word of God and who cry to Him to bring down this monolith of evil. From within the chief regions of Rome's power and influence has gone up a cry of disgust at the activities of the perverted priests who have for decades made the life of thousands and thousands of children an unimaginable misery. However, coupled with the condemnation of the perpetrators of abuse, the accusing fingers of millions of

Roman Catholics have been pointed at the bishops and cardinals who permitted such atrocities and even deliberately concealed them from the authorities and the parents of victims, but even worse, made arrangements for the abusers to move elsewhere where they continued their evil pursuits.

In our article last month, mention was made of the campaign engaged in by "The Boston Globe" (<http://www.boston.com>), a very influential Roman Catholic newspaper in the United States. For decades it has been a faithful servant of Romanism. But of late it has been relentless in its exposure of the activities within the jurisdiction of Cardinal Law. It recently carried a story about the Cardinal which began: "Cardinal Bernard F. Law, the once-powerful archbishop of Boston whose support has been eroding for months, suffered serious damage to his credibility yesterday with the release of hundreds of documents showing that he repeatedly and knowingly allowed an alleged serial pedophile to hold posts that allowed him access to children." The article continued: "No longer can Law say that he didn't protect priests accused of misconduct: He promoted the Rev. Paul R. Shanley to pastor of a Newton church, gave him a clean bill of health to minister to Catholics in California, and endorsed his running a Catholic hostel in New York despite three decades of sexual abuse allegations against Shanley and documents claiming that Shanley had declared acceptable sex between men and boys and had declared that no sexual practice, including bestiality, causes psychic damage. No longer can Law say that he always acted based on the best medical information available to him. He praised Shanley for 'years of generous and zealous care' and an 'impressive record' after a church-ordered psychiatric evaluation found Shanley to have 'a great deal of psychological pathology.'"



"Father" Paul Shanley - named as a perpetrator of abuse in secret Roman Catholic Church files released by the US courts.

GOD'S LAW

In an article dated 18th April the following was written: "Last week I read Cardinal Bernard Law's shocking 1996 letter to the Rev. Paul Shanley, an open advocate of sex with minors whose long history



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of molesting young boys and teenagers reportedly dated back to the 1960s. 'For 30 years in assigned ministry,' Law gushed to this predator, 'you brought God's Word and His Love to His people.... All of us are truly grateful for your priestly care and ministry to all whom you have served during those years.' Less flowery but no less dishonest was the letter of recommendation for Shanley written in 1990 by Law's top deputy, Bishop Robert Banks. He assured a California parish that there were no allegations of misconduct against Shanley - a claim flatly contradicted by the information in Shanley's file." This deceitful, lying wickedness is the true Rome. The hand-wringing humility of the hierarchy, seen world-wide of late, is but a public front designed to deceive afresh her gullible flock. The real Rome will never, can never change. Previously, "The Boston Globe" reported an attempt to depose Cardinal Law by his fellow cardinals. "In a rare move against one of their own, a group of senior American cardinals will urge Vatican leaders to ask Cardinal Bernard Law to resign as archbishop of Boston, according to the Los Angeles Times."

ANONYMITY

"A cardinal who spoke to the Times on condition of anonymity told the paper that high-ranking members of the clergy are united in their belief that Law must step down before the church can begin to heal from the sexual abuse scandal that has its epicenter in the Boston archdiocese. The cardinal said that he has been "commissioned" by his colleagues to appeal directly to the Vatican for Law's resignation, the Times reported. 'If the Holy See wants to send a strong signal of quality and standards of leadership,' the cardinal told the Times, Law 'will have to be replaced. This cannot be a phaseout.' " As it turned out, the Pope did not ask for the Cardinal's resignation but he continues still in office. As we said last month when writing on this subject, the system that produced the wickedness cannot cure it! The Pope's response is proof of this fact.

IRELAND

Ireland's Catholic bishops have met in County Kildare to discuss the issue of child sex abuse. It is understood more details about the internal audit which will be carried out in each diocese in Ireland were discussed. The discussions followed the Irish Government's decision to set up an inquiry into child sex abuse by priests and members of religious orders. The bishops of all the 26 dioceses - in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - attended the meeting at St Patrick's College in Maynooth. After all the cases against priests in Ireland, north and south, it is only now that a meeting is convened to deal with the issue. And why? Is it not because the Republic's government, pressed on every side by public opinion and with an election due very soon as well, has decided on a public inquiry into the wickednesses of the priests? Yes, Rome never changes!

POLAND

A Polish archbishop accused of molesting young priests resigned Thursday March 28, at a time when the Roman Catholic Church is already trying to overcome sex-scandals in several other countries, including the United States. Juliusz Paetz, 67, the archbishop of Poznan, told priests who renewed their priesthood oaths, that he had submitted his resignation for the "good of the church", and that Pope John Paul had accepted it.

RESIGNING BUT DENYING SIN

"The Holy Father accepted my resignation," wire services quoted him as saying. But speak-



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ing in Poznan Cathedral, the bishop denied any wrongdoing, saying that his “kindness and spontaneity” had been misinterpreted. Fellow priests have accused him of paying night visits to the lodgings of seminarians, cuddling up to young clerics in public and using an underground tunnel to pay unannounced visits to his targets. Paetz is believed to be the highest ranking Catholic churchman to resign over a sex scandal since Austria’s Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer was forced into retirement in 1995 after charges of molesting former students.

In Rome the Vatican confirmed that the Polish-born Pope had agreed with the resignation of Paetz, who worked closely with him from 1978-1982 during the Pontiff’s extensive travels. His successor was identified as Monsignor Stanislaw Gadecki, 52, an auxiliary bishop in the town of Gniezno, Vatican sources said. Again and again, the two-facedness of Rome, the utter contempt for the truth is seen. How long will her people be deceived? How long will ecumenists be able to lure “Protestant” dupes into closer links with this filthy system?

If ever the Free Presbyterian Church needed to raise its voice against popery it is now. There is a challenge to all our people to pray and protest. There is a duty for all our ministers to pray and protest and preach the grand truths of the gospel boldly and clearly. May God help us to be able to throw out the lifeline of the gospel to our Roman Catholic neighbours.