

The Root Causes for the Catholic Scandals and Sovereignty of God

By Richard Bennett

Many Catholics are quite irate concerning child abuse by their Priests and call for the removal of corrupt Bishops, reform, and redress and compensation. There are many of such groups¹, one of these demands, “that Corrupt Bishops must go!”² While these concerns are quite commendable, they are just a genuine humanistic response to depraved behavior. It is necessary to see the whole crisis in the light of the Sovereignty of God, and to discern the roots causes of what has become a persistent agonizing, and revealing wound. The doctrine of God’s sovereignty in the Scriptures gives us an exalted view of His purposes. By understanding the nature of God we both wisdom and understanding because, “*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.*”³ God is the Father and fountain of all good. He is not, cannot be, the author or advocate of anything that is evil. He is acknowledged as the cause and spring of every thing that is good, in the words of Scripture, “*Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.*”⁴ However since God controls all things, this means that evil is also under the control of God. He has, in His good judgment, decreed that the evil of Apostasy would have full dominion right through history for His own purposes. Apostasy and its evil fruits are included among God’s eternal decrees, made known to us in His Word of truth in the Scriptures.⁵ In our own day however, it appears that Christ Jesus is beginning His end time’s judgment, upon the Apostate Vatican Church. There has come upon that Church an “*evil ... which you will not know how to charm away.*”⁶ A wound has come upon the Church of Rome that she just does not have the charisma to override. So therefore, “*the Lord reigneth; let the people tremble!*”⁷ The Lord God rules the world by His providence, governs true believers by His grace, and administers and judges Apostate systems in His righteousness, even unto repentance. We are not only to believe that the Lord lives, but that the Lord reigns even through the Catholic scandals and their origins.

The Root of the Crisis

The true nature of the crisis in the Catholic Church is not pedophilia, but homosexuality, which can lead to the abuse of underage boys. The root cause of the predicament is however much deeper. The starting place is the traditional doctrine of the Catholic Church regarding overcoming evil. To deal with sin the Church of Rome proposes for her Priests and her people a looking within to find their destiny, thus she states,

¹ Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests www.survivorsnetwork.org Advocate Web www.advocateweb.org
Survivors of Clergy Abuse www.thelinkup.com Support victims of clergy sexual abuse. www.survivorsfirst.org

² STTOP www.sttop.org/

³ Proverbs 9:10

⁴ James 1:17

⁵ John 14:30, John 5:43, I John 2:18, II Thessalonians 2:3-12, Revelation 17,18, Matthew 7:15, Matthew 7:15, Matthew 24:5,11,24, 1 John 4:1 Timothy 4:1-2 Acts 20:29

⁶ Isaiah 47:11 NASU

⁷ Psalm 99:1

“This is the reason why this sacred Synod, in proclaiming the noble destiny of man and **affirming an element of the divine in him**, offers to co-operate unreservedly with mankind in fostering a sense of brotherhood to correspond to this destiny of theirs.”⁸

This is one of the basic concepts of Pagan religions that hold that there is a spark of the divine within each human being, and that this is his true self. Thus in Hinduism it is held, “By understanding your true Self, by coming to know one’s own undying soul, one then arrives at the knowledge of Brahman itself...”⁹. Rome persists in maintaining this Pagan teaching of “an element of the divine” within man, and brings such a concept to its logical conclusion in dealing with sin and evil inclinations.

“... Nevertheless man has been **wounded by sin**. He finds by experience that his body is in revolt. His very dignity therefore requires that he should glorify God in his body, and not allow it to serve the evil inclinations of his heart. . . . When he is drawn to think about his real self he turns to those deep recesses of his being where God who probes the heart awaits him, and **where he himself decides his own destiny in the sight of God.**”¹⁰

For a sinner to attempt to be right with God by deciding “his own destiny in the sight of God” is to degrade Person of God, and His written Word. The Scripture makes known God’s character and the means of salvation is proclaimed as “*not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*”¹¹ Such a glorious portrayal of the nature of God may drive sinners to despair of self. This is exactly how it should be. Because it is not until the sinner loses hope of any help from within himself, that he will depend solely on God’s mercy and grace. Once the Holy Spirit convicts that person that there is no help in his own power, he will recognize that he is lost, and cry out, “*God be merciful to me a sinner.*”¹² The God of infinite mercy be merciful to such a one. The sinner however who “decides his own destiny in the sight of God”, will be ever undone, forever lost, as we see in the lives of those Priests involved in child abuse.

Self-salvation leaves the Priest Footless

What Catholic priests have learnt, and the doctrine to which they look for help with moral problems, is such as the following official teaching,

“It is, however, only in freedom that man can turn himself towards what is good. . . . For God willed that man should ‘be left in the hand of his own counsel’ so that he might of his own accord seek his creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him. Man’s dignity therefore requires him to act out of conscious and free choice, as moved and drawn in a personal way from within, and not by blind impulses in himself or by mere external constraint.”¹³

To those who believe Rome’s teaching regarding man’s dignity and his ability to choose God, we pose the Lord’s question, “*how can ye believe, which receive honor one of another?*”¹⁴. Water cannot flow uphill, nor can a sinner act contrary to his corrupt nature. What then can one do? One must first acknowledge

⁸ Vatican 11 Documents Gaudium et Spes, 7 Dec. 1965, Vol. I, Sec 3 p 904-5

⁹ Atman and Brahman as explained on www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/GLOSSARY/BRAHMAN.HTM 12/2/2002

¹⁰ Vatican 11 Documents Gaudium et Spes, 7 Dec. 1965, Vol. I, Sec. 14, p. 915

¹¹ Romans 9:16

¹² Luke 18:13

¹³ Vatican 11 Documents Gaudium et Spes, 7 Dec. 1965, Vol. I Sec. 17, p. 917

¹⁴ John 5:44

that he is spiritually dead, and cry out for help. It is the Holy Spirit that awakens a sense of need. We hear and learn from the Father by the Holy Spirit through His written Word. God's Word shows forth the mind of God "*who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*"¹⁵ It is exactly opposite to what Rome proclaims, man, as "left in the hand of his own counsel". This concept of self-salvation however is ingrained in Catholicism, together with its dependence on its seven physical sacraments to obtain grace.¹⁶ Man "left in the hand of his own counsel" and to his "dignity and freedom" is red wine of deceptive pride. This teaching is a thousand light years away from the conviction of the Holy Spirit that comes from God alone, through His written Word. This type of teaching is the basic cause of moral crisis in the Catholic Church. For decades Archbishops and bishops have kept dreadful accounts of child abuse out of the public eye through an elaborate code of secrecy, deception, and intimidation. Under its strictest penalty that of pain of excommunication Rome has since 1962 warned the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops to keep the clergy sexual abuse secret. The press has exposed this clandestine legislation.¹⁷ The many gays within the priesthood are also a most serious cause of the crisis. Homosexuality can be ranked, after an incorrect method of dealing with sin, as the second major reason behind the present calamity. (The RC laws on celibacy for Priests is analyzed in our article "*...better to marry than to burn.*")¹⁸

Homosexuality in Catholic Seminaries

Were it not documented in Catholic books¹⁹ one would hardly believe the utter decadence in seminaries and in colleges that train for the priesthood. The subculture of homosexuality is rampant right across the U.S.A. Page after page of '*Goodbye, Good Men*' tells of the horrific influence of homosexuality, which has permeated the youth in the Catholic seminaries. The ideals of the youth are replaced by unnatural lusts that have become prevalent in major seminaries and colleges training for the priesthood in the U.S.A.²⁰

Donnell Cozzens, a leading Catholic priest and rector of St. Mary's in Cleveland Ohio (one of the leading U.S. Seminaries) states in his book on the priesthood that: "An NBC report on celibacy and the clergy found that 'anywhere from 23 percent to 58 percent' of the Catholic clergy have a homosexual orientation.²¹ Other studies find that approximately half of American priests and seminarians are homosexually oriented... Moreover, the percentage of gay men among religious congregations of priests is believed to be even higher."²² Then nonchalantly he states, "At issue at the beginning of the twenty-first century is the growing perception—one seldom contested by those who know the priesthood well—

¹⁵ Ephesians 1:11

¹⁶ Catechism Para 1129 "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation." See Salvation and the Sacramental System on our Webpage: www.bereanbeacon.org

¹⁷ <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/frontpage> 7/29/03

www.bishop-accountability.org/downloads/CrimenSollicitationes-Unprotected.pdf 8/19/03

¹⁸ On our webpage, under articles: www.bereanbeacon.org

¹⁹ Goodbye, Good Men, How Liberals Brought Corruption into the Catholic Church by Michael S. Ross and The Changing Face of the Priesthood by Father Donnell Cozzens

²⁰ This is documented in chapter 4 called The Gay Subculture How Homosexual Politics Discriminates against healthy Heterosexual Seminarians in the book '*Goodbye, Good Men.*' published by Regency Gateway Washington, D.C. 2002

²¹ Timothy Unsworth, *The Last Priests in America* (New York: Crossroad, 1991) p. 248.

²² *The Changing Face of the Priesthood a Reflection of the Priest's Crisis of Soul* by Donald B. Cozzens to The Liturgical Press Collegeville MN, 2002 p. 99

that the priesthood is or is becoming a gay profession. And to the point is the question: Does it matter? Does not the question reveal still another form of homophobia?”²³

Then under the heading “The Gay Crisis” Cozzens states, “Gay seminarians are likely to feel at home and at ease in a seminary with a significant gay population. They feel they belong and their need for meaningful, deep relationships with other gay man is easily met, and because they instinctively recognize other gay seminarians, circles of support and camaraderie are quickly formed... The straight seminarian meanwhile, feels out of place and may interpret his inner destabilization as a sign that he does not have a vocation to the priesthood”²⁴ In the concluding sentence of the book Cozzens says, “Behind the changing face of the priesthood remains the saving face of Jesus the Christ.”²⁵

He had already stated on page eight of the book that, saving souls through...“the celebration of the sacraments is the primary function of the priest...” And on page 30 he says, “The ritual, symbolic richness of the sacramental life of the Church, to a great extent, meets the human need for transcendence.” The need for the esthetic may be met in the pageantry of the Catholic sacraments, but not the need to deal with sin and to be right with God. To state that saving face of Christ Jesus remains behind the priesthood is a lie. Christ Jesus stands behind what is true, in accord with His written Word to the glory of His Father! The Catholic priesthood is a parody of all the Christ stands for. Christ Jesus does not stand behind the Catholic make-believe; rather He is One High Priest who is holy, harmless, undefiled! The Apostle Paul is explicit in describing why men are homosexuals. He declares that *“the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.”*²⁶ This is the just judgment of God as punishment for their love of the lie, upholding the dignity of the creature rather than the Creator.

The Unthinkable has Happened

The doctrine of self-salvation, and the tolerance of homosexuality²⁷ in the priesthood, has been the root evil behind the present ignominy. While the unthinkable has happened the Vatican has been unashamed and has continued to declare that her teachings and tradition are not the cause. Thus she officially declares,

“In any case, the [Catholic] church of the West cannot weaken her faithful observance of her own tradition. And it is unthinkable that for centuries she has followed a path which, instead of favouring the spiritual richness of individual souls and of the People of God, has in some way compromised it, or that she has with arbitrary juridical prescriptions stifled the free expansion of the most profound realities of nature and of grace.”²⁸

²³ Ibid p. 107

²⁴ The Changing Face of the Priesthood p. 135

²⁵ Ibid p.143

²⁶ Romans 1:27

²⁷ The tolerance of homosexuality is represented in Catholicism by the wide acceptance of the Dignity Movement. Dignity/USA is the largest movement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics. See www.dignityusa.org/whatis.html

²⁸ Vatican Council II Documents No. 95, Sacerdotalis Caelibatus, 24 June 1967, Vatican Council II: More Post Conciliar Documents, Austin P. Flannery, Ed. First Edition (Northport, NY: Costello Publ. Co., 1982) Vol. II, Sec. 41, p. 297

The unimaginable is now in front of men's faces, both tradition in doctrine, and celibacy in practice, have failed. First again looking at the traditional way of dealing with the "slavery to the passions". The audacity to teach that God is willing to do His part if you "freely choose what is good", is a God insulting denial of the Gospel. This is exactly what Rome teaches; we give another official quote from Vatican documents,

"Man gains such dignity when, **ridding himself of all slavery to the passions**, he presses forward towards his goal **by freely choosing what is good**, and, by his diligence and skill, effectively secures for himself the means suited to this end. Since human freedom has been weakened by sin it is only by the help of God's grace that man can give his actions their full and proper relationship to God."²⁹

This tradition repudiates one of the most precious truths taught in the Bible, namely, that God helps those who are incapable of helping themselves, those who have tried again and again only to fail.

The Gospel of the Sovereign Lord

If there is to be a real answer to the horrific crimes, it is necessary that Catholic Priests and people be convicted that they are made right with all-Holy God by grace alone through faith alone, and in Christ alone and all glory and praise is to God alone. To come to Christ Jesus for life, is for the sinner to recognize that he is utterly destitute of any claim upon God's grace. It is to see that in ones own power he is lost and hopeless. It is to come clean with God and admit that he is deserving of nothing in himself but eternal death and punishment. To come to Christ for life, is for the sinner to abandon his own imagined dignity, and so-called ability to overcome passions. To know eternal life is to disown man made self-salvation and to unreservedly believe only on the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord. "*Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.*"³⁰ Looking to personal dignity and ability, and to rid oneself of "all slavery to the passions" is worse than foolishness, it is soul damning. Catholic Priests and people are responsible to use the means of that the Lord God's has appointed. The Sovereign Lord has shown His hand in the midst of crisis! Forgiveness of sin, including homosexuality is God's gift to the believer. It is granted to the believer based on Christ's finished work on the cross.³¹ God's action in Christ Jesus shows His graciousness to believers so that their eyes of faith are fixed on Him alone. "*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*"³² As the Sovereign Lord judges in time, we pray it will result in true repentance and true belief. Since we are dealing with Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, we boldly pray that the Lord's own words will be fulfilled as never before! "*Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live... Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.*"³³ The end design of Sovereign Lord is the giving of renewing grace. That sinners should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures, that sinners should be God's portion and treasure. In the words of Scripture, "*Of his own will begat he us with the*

²⁹ Vatican 11 Documents Gaudium et Spes, 7 Dec. 1965, Vol. I, Sec. 17, p. 917

³⁰ Hebrews 3:7, 8

³¹ Romans 4:5-8, II Corinthians 5:19-21, Romans 3:21-28, Titus 3:5-7, Ephesians 1:7, Jeremiah 23:6, I Corinthians 1:30-31, Romans 5:17-19.

³² Romans 5:17.

³³ Ezekiel 37:9, 23

*word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”*³⁴ In history past, the Sovereign Lord has often displayed His renewing grace in the midst of great evil, that this would be so again is our heartfelt prayer. The resurrection of souls from the death of sin to life Christ Jesus is the Gospel good news!

³⁴ James 1:18