



What the Vatican Should Do Around Issues of Sexual Abuse and in Support of Survivors

In an excerpt from Out of the Shadows - Chapter Nine: Insights and Growth:

“Healings the Vatican could (and should) bring about — The Vatican has the power to stand beside the survivors of sexual abuse and make radical changes unprecedented in religious history. It would mean many clerics having to face consequences, and it would mean the church having to pay out money to those who had no voice in the legal system, but it would signal that the Vatican is serious about ending the madness that has occurred far too long. Yes! The Vatican and Pope Francis could join the cause for reform of the laws and work with legislatures in that reform.

They could also have each guilty priest or bishop admit publicly they have abused, and have them publicly apologize. They could hold other bishops accountable for moving pedophile priests from one location to another, thus helping to affect greater healing among survivors of abuse.

This would be in alignment with the true teachings of Jesus.

The Vatican could be a greater force for God by accepting responsibility for the lives of individuals and families that remain forever changed and by removing the titles of all those who were sexually, emotionally, spiritually abusive. By revoking all privileges, by cessation of their monthly stipend, by making them surrender to local law enforcement or to papal authority if statutes of limitation have been reached.”

In brief, Audrey is calling on the Vatican to be completely accountable:

- *Identify abusive priests*
- *Be open and transparent about what these priests have done*
- *Be open and transparent about the treatment they are getting*
- *State conclusively these abusers are no longer affiliated with or receive stipends from the Church*
- *State conclusively these abusers can no longer practice as priests and as persons, made very bad choices*
- *The Church has the money to do so much more: Monetary restitution notwithstanding, many survivors turn to drugs and alcohol, or can't drive, or are fearful to leave their homes; the Church must administer to survivors not based on religious beliefs, but other modalities*

Audrey Yagalla

What the Vatican Should Do Around Issues of Sexual Abuse and in Support of Survivors...continued

Survivors need names, information and an apology:

- Survivors need to have a list of abusive priests identified by the Church
Priests that have admitted to sexual abuse need to be put on lists such as [Megan's Law](#) which originated in California. All states in the U.S. now have some form of Megan's Law. As an example, Skotek admitted abuse and is not on Megan's Law because he was never tried and convicted. The silence and allowance must end. It is not acceptable.
- Survivors need a serious, meaningful apology from the Church
- Survivors need an explanation as to why the behavior existed

In addition, a new Vatican law is set to take effect on December 8, 2021 criminalizing abuse of adults by priests and laity:

“Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office also can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes. The new provisions, released...after 14 years of study, were contained in the revised criminal law section of the Vatican's Code of Canon Law, the in-house legal system that covers the 1.3 billion-member Catholic Church and operates independently from civil laws.

The Vatican also criminalized priests “grooming” minors or vulnerable adults to compel them to engage in pornography. The update represents the first time church law has officially recognized as a criminal act the method used by sexual predators to build relationships with victims they have targeted for sexual exploitation.”

Full AP Story here: [New Vatican Law](#)

Still, Audrey asks: What about those people affected before the new “Vatican law” goes into effect? And why did it take so long (14 years) to put these in place?

CONTACT AUDREY NOW:

Representation: Francine Raften, new72 Media Management

francine@francineraften.com

(503) 720-2034

Website: audreyyagalla.com

