

# Catholic Teaching & Law

The Catholic Church has always considered grave sin against children and sin against nature to be the most heinous of all sin, and has always acted accordingly. Our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Himself taught that: *“But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

Pope St. Pius V formally decreed, and the Fifth Lateran Council confirmed, that:

*“Therefore, wishing to pursue with the greatest rigour that which We have decreed since the beginning of Our Pontificate, we establish that any priest or member of the clergy, either secular or regular, who commits such an execrable crime, by force of the present law be deprived of every clerical privilege, of every post, dignity and ecclesiastical benefit, and having been degraded by an ecclesiastical judge, be immediately delivered to the secular authority to be executed as mandated by law, according to the appropriate punishment for laymen plunged into this abyss.”*

Up until the present day Church law requires that any cleric or religious accused of such horrific crimes against children must be reported to the civil authority for appropriate punishment if any semblance of truth is found in the allegation.

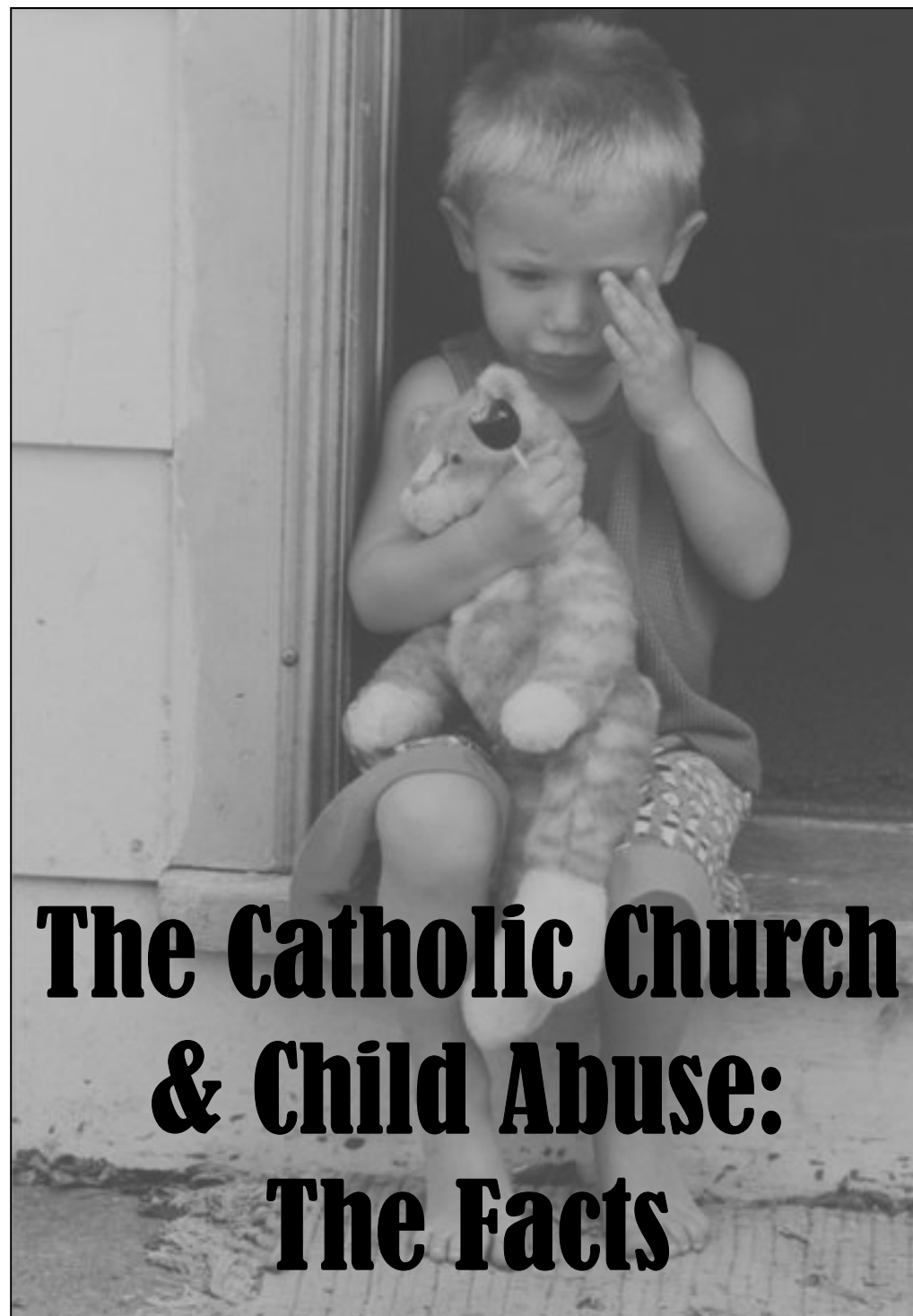
Unfortunately the disease of Liberalism and the attempt to ‘fit in’ with the modern liberal world, a disease officially unleashed upon the Catholic Church at the Second Vatican Council in the 1960’s, has led some bishops and priests to disregard Church law and traditional Catholic teaching in order to adopt the false ideas and ‘solutions’ of the modern world.

This has led, in too many cases, to child molesters and sexual perverts being treated with kid-gloves, being sent for ‘treatment’ to psychologists and ‘psycho-analysts’, and then shunted from diocese to diocese where they could secretly continue their vile abuse.

Although cases of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church are extremely rare in comparison to the sexual abuse of children in liberal secular society, even one case is one too many if not dealt with by the severity that the crime truly demands.

## Return to Tradition

**The Society of Saint Pius X is a priestly Fraternity founded in 1970 that provides for the traditional Catholic formation of priests and religious, as well as upholding and defending traditional Catholic doctrine, theology, morality and liturgy against the errors of the modern world. For further information please visit: <http://www.sspix.co.uk>**



# The Catholic Church & Child Abuse: The Facts

# Clerical Sexual Abuse Compared to Secular Society

## Sexual Abuse in the Church

Independent studies conducted into the prevalence and incidence of child sexual abuse within structures operated by the Catholic Church have found that:

By far the largest number of cases of child sexual abuse have been recorded in the United States of America.

### United States of America

Over a 42 year period there were 10,667 cases of child sexual abuse. 81% of the sexual abuse was suffered by boys under eighteen years of age.

- *The Nature and Scope of the Problem of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States*, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2004.

Approximately one quarter of the population of the USA is Catholic — that is seventy million people. If the reasonable assumption is made that half of the Catholic population passed through childhood during this 42 year period then 0.03% of Catholic children have suffered sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic clergy.

### Ireland

Over a 34 year period more than one hundred and seventy thousand children passed through Industrial and Reformatory schools run by the Catholic Church. Of this number a total of 369 people, 242 males and 127 females, made complaint to the Irish Child Abuse Commission during its nine-year investigation that they had suffered sexual abuse. The incidence rate is 0.2%. Of the accused perpetrators, 45% were Catholic clergy or religious, and 55% were visiting professionals, hired staff, family members or other pupils.

- *Final Report, Commission to Enquire into Child Abuse*, Dublin, 2009



## Sexual Abuse in Secular Society

Independent studies conducted into the prevalence and incidence of child sexual abuse in liberal secular society have found that:

### Great Britain and Northern Ireland

16% of children under sixteen years of age suffer sexual abuse. This figure consists of 11% of boys and 21% of girls.  
- Cawson et al, 2000, *Child Maltreatment in the United Kingdom: A Study of the Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect*. London: NSPCC, p.85.

### United States of America

22-23% of children under eighteen years of age suffer sexual abuse. This figure consists of 17% of boys and 28% of girls, and is the average rate compiled from 23 independent studies.

- Rind et al, 1998, *A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples*; *Psychological Bulletin* 124: pp. 22-53.

9.6% of students suffer sexual abuse in secular US schools.

- Shakeshaft, *Educator Sexual Misconduct: A Synthesis of the Literature*, US Department of Education, 2004.

The highest annual number of cases of sexual abuse on record is 149,800 in 1992. The lowest annual number is 89,355 in 2000.

- Jones and Finkelhor, *Explanations for the Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases*, *OJJDP Bulletin*, Washington DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2004.

## Summary and Conclusion

The official statistics prove beyond any doubt that, contrary to pernicious media stories, the sexual abuse of children is hundreds of times more prevalent in liberal secular society than it is in the Catholic Church.