

P R E S S R E L E A S E

TO: [local and LA newspapers]
FROM: Voice of the Faithful, Santa Barbara Area and
 Voice of the Faithful, Southern Los Angeles Area
DATE: October 13, 2005

PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

Members of Voice of the Faithful--an organization of Catholics committed to reform and renewal of the church--are appalled to learn from the *Addendum* report just released by the LA archdiocese the extent to which their spiritual leaders have failed the people. They are sickened by the scope of the problem in the archdiocese, specifically that, as reported in the LA Times, three-quarters of the parishes in the diocese have had accused clerics working in them. The report gives evidence of repeated betrayals of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the church--the children--and reveals a spiritual and moral failure of profound significance.

Church authorities failed to report accused priests to the police, despite the reality that child molestation was a known felony. Thus, priests were shielded from prosecution for crimes for which other pedophiles were sent to prison. The Addendum reveals a pattern of disregard for the first accusations against priests, which allowed perpetrators to be placed in parishes where they could offend again. This occurred despite the report sent to all bishops in 1985 ("The Problem of Sexual Molestation by Roman Catholic Clergy") giving evidence that most pedophiles are repeat offenders. Moreover, the release of these sanitized summaries in no way speaks to the pain of survivors and will be of small comfort to them and their families.

The time is more than ripe for Los Angeles area Catholics to come together to preserve the faith they treasure while changing what must be changed in the institutional Church. The time for silent acquiescence is over.

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