

From: Christians for Life and Liberty <CLL@spiritcom.net>
To:
Date: 6/4/2018 4:06:54 PM
Subject: (Vatican/Australia) Vatican Third-Highest-Ranking Official, Roman Catholic Cardinal George Pell, to Stand Trial on Historical Child Sexual Abuse Offenses

iri600Christians for Life and Liberty (CLL)
aka [Columbia Christians for Life \(CCL \)](#)
Columbia, South Carolina
June 4, 2018

(Vatican / Australia)

Vatican Third-Highest-Ranking Official, [Roman Catholic Cardinal George Pell](#),
to Stand Trial on Historical Child Sexual Abuse Offenses

Highest-Ranking Roman Catholic Official in the World to be Tried for such Crimes

George Pell

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pell

[CLL: edited, emphasis, comments added]

George Pell [AC](#) (born 8 June 1941) is an [Australian prelate](#) of the [[Roman](#)] [Catholic Church](#). He became the inaugural [Prefect](#) of the [Secretariat for the Economy](#) in 2014. He previously served as the eighth [[Roman Catholic](#)] [Archbishop of Sydney](#) (2001–2014), [[Roman Catholic](#)] [Archbishop of Melbourne](#) (1996–2001), and [[Roman Catholic](#)] [Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne](#) (1987–1996). He was created [?] a [[Roman Catholic](#)] cardinal in 2003.

continued...

On 29 June 2017, Pell was charged in Victoria, Australia, with multiple historical sexual assault offences, and denied all charges. The Pope granted him leave to return to Australia to defend himself. The most serious charges were thrown out for "fundamental defects in evidence" and a witness who could not be believed, but Pell was committed to stand [trial](#) on the lesser charges, pleading not guilty. [As Vatican Prefect for the Secretariat of the Economy](#), Pell is reported to be the most senior [[Roman](#)] [Catholic cleric in the world to face such charges](#).

[Vatican] Secretariat for the Economy

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretariat_for_the_Economy

[CLL: edited, emphasis, comments added]

The Secretariat for the Economy ... is a **dicastery** of the **Roman Curia** with authority over all economic activities of the **Holy See** [CLL: sic - Unholy] and the **Vatican City State**.

Pope Francis ordered the establishment of the secretariat in a **motu proprio**, *Fidelis dispensator et prudens*, published on 24 February 2014. It is headed by a **cardinal-prefect**, who **reports directly to the Pope**. It is, after the **Secretariat of State**, the second dicastery named a secretariat, an indication of its importance relative to other parts of the [**Roman**] Curia.

Excerpt [emphasis, comments added]:

"[The] decision today ... marks **a turning point in the global abuse crisis in the [Roman] Catholic church,**"

said a statement by **BishopAccountability.org**, which tracks cases of alleged abuse.

"The Australian government

has put the [**Roman**] Catholic [**false**] church on equal footing with other institutions, and treated its leaders as fellow citizens."

In Rome, the question now is whether [**JESUIT**] **Pope Francis** is prepared to take tougher action against accused [**Roman Catholic**] priests, as well as the [**Roman Catholic**] bishops who have been accused of protecting them.

The Guardian (UK)

[**Roman Catholic**] Cardinal George Pell trial a 'turning point', says survivors' rights group

Question in Rome is now whether [**JESUIT**] Pope Francis is prepared to take tougher action against accused priests

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/01/cardinal-george-pell-trial-ruling-catholic-church-abuse-welcomed-by-survivors-rights-group>

1 May 2018

Excerpt [emphasis, comments added]:

The Australian Catholic child sex abuse scandal goes back decades

Pell is the most senior member of the [Roman] Catholic Church [sic] to be involved in what has now been **decades of scandal** over allegations of **systematic child abuse** in the '60s, '70s and early '80s, by [Roman] **Catholic clergy worldwide** .

The sex abuse scandal reached the public eye in the 1990s after a series of television documentaries, including 1994's *Suffer the Children*, brought the issue to light in **Ireland**. Later, it spread, with reports of widespread [Roman Catholic] clerical abuse affecting **thousands of children** in dozens of countries , including the United States and Australia . One Australian study undertaken by a royal commission **found that** 7 percent of Australian [Roman Catholic] priests were accused of child abuse between 1950 and 2009.

In addition to the allegations of abuse, there have been allegations of a **Vatican cover-up**. **Several reports** have found that senior [Roman Catholic **false**] church officials rarely took action after allegations of abuse, systematically transferring accused offenders into different parishes, where they would continue to come into contact with children, rather than seeking legal recourse or punishment.

Vox

The highest-ranking Vatican official yet will stand trial for child sex abuse

Cardinal George Pell faces numerous counts of "historical sexual offenses."

<https://www.vox.com/2018/5/1/17306698/george-pell-third-highest-ranking-vatican-trial-child-sex-abuse-charged-australia>

May 1, 2018

The New York Times

[**Vatican No. 3 Official, Roman Catholic**] Cardinal George Pell to Stand Trial on Historical Sex Offenses

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/30/world/australia/cardinal-george-pell-trial-sexual-abuse.html>

April 30, 2018



[Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, Australia's most senior Roman Catholic and the [Roman Catholic false] church's No. 3 official worldwide, leaving court in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Credit: Joe Castro/EPA, via Shutterstock

[CLL: Emphasis, comments added; portion omitted]

MELBOURNE, Australia - [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, the Vatican's third-highest-ranking official, must stand trial on several charges of sexual abuse, an Australian court ruled on Tuesday, promising to prolong a case that has already dragged on for months, and which many see as a moment of reckoning for a [false] church racked by scandal.

Belinda Wallington, a Melbourne magistrate, found there was sufficient evidence for prosecutors to bring the cardinal's case to trial, ending a two-month pretrial hearing, in which witnesses described abuse they said took place decades ago.

But the majority of charges against the [Roman Catholic] cardinal were either withdrawn or dismissed, including several of the most serious allegations, which were said to have taken place in a playground, on an altar, on a mountaintop and during a 1970s screening of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" in Ballarat.

[[Read about why we can't let the public know more about criminal cases in Australia.](#)]

Cardinal Pell, 76, is the Vatican's de facto finance chief and the most senior Roman Catholic official to be charged with crimes of sexual abuse. He was granted leave by the pope to return to Australia to conduct his defense.

When asked to enter a plea, the cardinal said "not guilty." He has surrendered his passport.

The [Roman Catholic] cardinal has been accused of "historical sexual offenses," meaning they took place decades ago, but the details of the criminal complaint, including the identities of his accusers, have not been made public. Such cases are subject to Australia's strict contempt standards, and other legal restrictions, which prohibit journalists from reporting on details of criminal allegations.

Robert Richter, the [Roman Catholic] cardinal's lawyer, said last year there was "voluminous" evidence to prove that "what was alleged is impossible." Mr. Richter argued that [Roman Catholic] Cardinal Pell was being targeted for the worldwide failing of the [Roman] Catholic [false] Church to protect victims of abuse.

[Roman Catholic] Cardinal Pell was accused in 2016 in hearings before Australia's Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse of mishandling misconduct cases against [Roman Catholic] clergy members while he served as the leader of the [Roman Catholic] Archdioceses of Melbourne and Sydney. Then, in 2017, allegations surfaced that he had himself been involved in abuse beginning early in his [Roman Catholic false] priesthood and continuing until he became [Roman Catholic] archbishop of Melbourne. He has denied those accusations.

"It's a historical day for the survivors of Ballarat," said Phil Nagle, an advocate for abuse victims, referring to the [Roman Catholic] cardinal's hometown, in which several [Roman Catholic] priests were accused of misconduct. "I didn't know whether this could happen. He's the third most important person in the [Roman Catholic false] church. It's good to see him being treated like any other citizen in court."

It is unclear when the criminal trial will begin. At least two more hearings will be held before then to determine which evidence is admissible and to set a court date.

"The trial could be up to a year away," said Judy Courtin, a lawyer and advocate who has represented sexual abuse victims. "The unknowns can be stressful and traumatic for survivors."

But she characterized the magistrate's decision as an important step for victims of [Roman Catholic] priest abuse, saying "their truth is being acknowledged."

The [Roman Catholic false] church has found itself at the center of a spiraling sex abuse scandal, spanning countries and decades. Pope Francis has been criticized in recent months for seeming to backtrack on earlier promises of a crackdown - including defending a Chilean bishop accused of covering up for a [Roman Catholic] pedophile priest - but has not publicly commented on [Roman Catholic] Cardinal Pell's case since charges were announced.

continued...

A version of this article appears in print on May 1, 2018, on Page A12 of the New York edition with the headline:

Cardinal Faces Trial On Charges Of Sex Abuse. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

CBS News

Senior Vatican official ordered to stand trial on sex abuse charges

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cardinal-george-pell-senior-vatican-official-australia-ordered-to-stand-trial-on-sex-abuse-charges/>

May 1, 2018

[CLL: Excerpt, emphasis, comments added]

MELBOURNE, Australia -- Australian [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Vatican official to be charged in the [Roman] Catholic Church [sic] sex abuse crisis, must stand trial on charges that he sexually abused multiple victims decades ago, a magistrate ruled Tuesday. Magistrate Belinda Wallington dismissed around half of the charges that had been heard in the four-week preliminary hearing in Melbourne but decided the prosecution's case was strong enough for the remainder to warrant a trial by jury. The number of charges has not been made public.

continued...

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NPR

2 Trials Set For [Roman Catholic] Cardinal Pell On Sex Abuse Charges

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/05/02/607647422/2-trials-set-for-cardinal-pell-on-sex-abuse-charges>

May 2, 2018

[CLL: Excerpt, emphasis, comments added]

Attorneys for [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, the former [Roman Catholic] archbishop of Sydney, were granted a request that the allegations of child sex abuse against him that date back decades be handled in two separate trials.

Pell, 76, is the highest-ranking Vatican official to stand trial on such charges. He appeared in court on Wednesday for the second day after pleading not guilty to multiple charges involving alleged sexual offenses dating from the 1970s and 1990s when he was a [Roman Catholic] priest in the Melbourne area and later [Roman Catholic]

] archbishop of the southern Australian city.

Pell's lawyer, Robert Richter, argued before Judge Sue Pullen that the charges from the '70s and those from the '90s were "of a completely different nature" and "separated by 20 years" and therefore should be handled discretely.

Last year, Pell publicly proclaimed his innocence, saying the allegations were all "false" and that "the whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me."

On Tuesday, a magistrate dismissed about half the charges against Pell, but concluded that he should face a jury on the remainder.

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The Guardian (UK)

[**Roman Catholic**] Cardinal George Pell trial a 'turning point', says survivors' rights group

Question in Rome is now whether [**JESUIT**] Pope Francis is prepared to take tougher action against accused priests

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/01/cardinal-george-pell-trial-ruling-catholic-church-abuse-welcomed-by-survivors-rights-group>

1 May 2018

[CLL: Excerpt, emphasis, comments added]

[Photo omitted]

A survivors' rights group has hailed as a "turning point" an Australian magistrate's ruling that [**Roman Catholic**] Cardinal **George Pell**, one of the most senior officials in the Vatican, will stand trial on historical sexual offence charges .

The decision by **Belinda Wallington** comes as the [**false**] church in Rome continues to be dogged by accusations that it has failed to do enough to come to grips with a sexual abuse crisis.

For some advocates, the development in Melbourne was a rare victory for secular law, after decades in which the [**false**] church has handled [**Roman Catholic**] priests and senior [**Roman Catholic**] clergy accused of sexual abuse within the Vatican's own judicial system.

"[The] decision today ... marks a turning point in the global abuse crisis in the [Roman] Catholic church," said a statement by BishopAccountability.org, which tracks cases of alleged abuse. "The Australian government has put the [Roman] Catholic [false] church on equal footing with other institutions, and treated its leaders as fellow citizens."

In Rome, the question now is whether [JESUIT] Pope Francis is prepared to take tougher action against accused [Roman Catholic] priests, as well as the [Roman Catholic] bishops who have been accused of protecting them.

continued...

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The New York Times

[Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell's Hometown Breaks Its Silence About Grim Past of Sexual Abuse

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/04/29/world/australia/ballarat-church-sexual-abuse-pell.html>

April 29, 2018

[CLL: Excerpts, emphasis, comments added]

[Photo]

The ribbons tied to a fence outside St. Patrick's cathedral in Ballarat, Australia, are in support of victims of child sexual abuse at the hands of the [Roman] Catholic clergy.

Credit: Asanka Brendon Ratnayake for The New York Times

BALLARAT, Australia -Rob Walsh was outside Melbourne Magistrates' Court recently awaiting a pretrial hearing for [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, the Vatican's third-highest-ranking official, when, he said, he unexpectedly walked into the cardinal himself.

The encounter wasn't their first. They both were raised in the same old mining town, which could be why the [Roman Catholic] cardinal extended his hand, inviting Mr. Walsh to shake it. Mr. Walsh declined - a gesture that signified the lasting impact of a decades-long sexual abuse scandal that has rocked this town, Ballarat, and sent shock waves around the world.

"The ripple is still on the lake and it's still occurring," Mr. Walsh said from his home in Ballarat,

referring to the lingering effects

from that scandal, in which priests preyed on children, including Mr. Walsh, during the 1960s and 1970s.

"It's gone through families and generations."

This town, officially a city of about 100,000 people, was once the center of Australia's gold rush, but is now better known as

the epicenter of that pedophile ring, in which [Roman] Catholic clergy preyed on those who depended on them the most

- children from Ballarat's poor, blue-collar neighborhoods.

[Photo]

"It's a never-ending story," said Rob Walsh, an abuse survivor whose two brothers and cousin were also abused at St. Alipius Primary School.

In the years that followed, all three committed suicide.

Credit: Asanka Brendon Ratnayake for The New York Times

The scale of the abuse in Ballarat was staggering. Gerald Ridsdale, the former chaplain of St. Alipius Primary School in Ballarat,

was imprisoned for sexually abusing 65 children from the early 1960s to late 1980s. He was only one of several [Roman Catholic]

priests convicted of abusing children.

About 45 victims were estimated to have committed suicide, prompting an outpouring of grief from once devout [Roman] Catholic parents

who said the [false] church robbed them of their sons.

Today, survivors speak of broken marriages, children being raised without fathers, lives spent in a haze of drugs and alcohol or in and out of institutional care.

continued...

A version of this article appears in print on April 30, 2018, on Page A4 of the New York edition with the headline:

A Gold Rush City Coming to Grips With the Sins of Its Clergy. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

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Vox

The highest-ranking Vatican official yet will stand trial for child sex abuse

Cardinal George Pell faces numerous counts of "historical sexual offenses."

<https://www.vox.com/2018/5/1/17306698/george-pell-third-highest-ranking-vatican-trial-child-sex-abuse-charged-australia>

May 1, 2018

[CLL: Excerpts, emphasis, comments added]

The third-highest-ranking official in the Vatican is **due to stand trial** in Australia for several charges of sex abuse. [**Roman Catholic**]

Cardinal George Pell, who was **charged last summer** with multiple counts of child sex abuse, will face trial in Melbourne after two months of hearings. Pell, 76, has pleaded not guilty to all counts and has surrendered his passport in anticipation of trial.

continued...

The Australian Catholic child sex abuse scandal goes back decades

Pell is the most senior member of the [**Roman**] Catholic Church [**sic**] to be involved in what has now been **decades of scandal** over allegations of systematic child abuse in the '60s, '70s and early '80s, by [**Roman**] Catholic clergy **worldwide**.

The sex abuse scandal reached the public eye in the 1990s after a series of television documentaries, including 1994's **Suffer the Children**, brought the issue to light in **Ireland**. Later, it spread, with reports of widespread [**Roman Catholic**] clerical abuse affecting **thousands of children** in dozens of countries, including the United States and Australia. One Australian study undertaken by a royal commission **found that** 7 percent of Australian [**Roman Catholic**] priests were accused of child abuse between 1950 and 2009.

In addition to the allegations of abuse, there have been allegations of a Vatican cover-up. **Several reports** have found that senior [**Roman Catholic false**] church officials rarely took action after allegations of abuse, systematically transferring accused offenders into different parishes, where they would continue to come into contact with children, rather than seeking legal recourse or punishment.

continued...

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CNN

Top adviser to Pope charged with sexual assault offenses

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/28/asia/cardinal-pell-australia/index.html>

June 29, 2017

[CLL: Excerpt, emphasis, comments added]

(CNN) - [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, a senior adviser to [JESUIT] Pope Francis and the third-ranking official in the Holy [sic - Unholy] See, is taking leave from the Vatican to fight historical sexual assault charges in his home country of Australia.

The case is the latest black mark against the [Roman] Catholic Church, which has been reeling from sexual abuse scandals across several countries that date back decades. It could also have ramifications for [JESUIT] Pope Francis, who counts Pell among his closest aides.

continued...

[Timeline: A look back at the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandals](#)

Francis' track record

Sex abuse and cover-up within the [Roman] Catholic Church [sic] have been documented in the United States, Ireland, Brazil, the Netherlands, Germany and Australia.

continued...



A protester holds a placard outside Australia's Royal Commission into child sex abuse in Sydney in March 2016.

Vatican defends Pell

The latest announcement is likely to deal a serious blow to the reputation of the [Roman] Catholic Church [sic] in Australia, which has seen its membership shrink in recent years. The 2016 census results, released Tuesday, showed that [Roman] Catholics no longer make up the top religious affiliation in Australia.

continued...

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E-mail below sent out June 1, 2018

Vri600Date: Fri, 01 Jun 2018
From: Christians for Life and Liberty
Subject: (Vatican/Australia) Roman Catholic Archbishop Convicted of Cover-Up of Sodomite Pedophile Priest's Sexual Abuse;
'Highest-Ranking [Roman] Catholic Official in the World to be Convicted of Concealing Such Crimes' - May 2018

Christians for Life and Liberty (CLL)
aka Columbia Christians for Life (CCL)
Columbia, South Carolina
June 1, 2018

(Vatican / Australia)

Roman Catholic Archbishop Convicted of Cover-Up of Sodomite Pedophile

Priest's Sexual Abuse;

'Highest-Ranking [Roman] Catholic Official in the World to be Convicted of Concealing Such Crimes'

- May 2018

New York Times

Australian [Roman Catholic] Archbishop Philip Wilson Guilty of [Sodomite Pedophile Priest] Sexual Abuse Cover-Up
<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/05/21/world/australia/philip-wilson-priest-abuse-guilty.html>
May 21, 2018

Excerpt [emphasis added]:

"The decision comes in the midst of a **global reckoning for the Roman Catholic Church**,
as it grapples with a **history of child sexual abuse and cover-ups.** "

Australian [Roman Catholic] Archbishop Philip Wilson Guilty of [Sodomite Pedophile Priest]

Sexual Abuse Cover-Up

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/05/21/world/australia/philip-wilson-priest-abuse-guilty.html>
May 21, 2018

[Roman Catholic] Archbishop Philip Wilson, center, arriving at a courthouse in Newcastle, Australia, on Tuesday. He was convicted of covering up abuse by a [Roman Catholic] priest in the state of New South Wales in the 1970s.
Credit: Peter Lorimer/Australian Associated Press, via Reuters

[CLL: Emphasis, comments added; portion omitted]

MELBOURNE, Australia - An Australian [Roman Catholic] archbishop was convicted on Tuesday of covering up a claim of sexual abuse dating back decades, and now faces a prison sentence of up to two years.

Philip Wilson, the [Roman Catholic] archbishop of Adelaide, is the highest-ranking [Roman] Catholic official in the world to be convicted of concealing such crimes.

The decision comes in the midst of a [global reckoning for the Roman Catholic Church](#), as it grapples with a [history of child sexual abuse and cover-ups](#). [Roman Catholic] Cardinal George Pell, also an Australian and the [Vatican's de facto finance chief](#), was [ordered last month to stand trial](#) on charges of "historical sexual abuse."

[Roman Catholic] Archbishop Wilson, 67, was accused of covering up abuse by a [Roman Catholic] priest, Jim Fletcher, in the state of New South Wales in the 1970s.

The case against the [Roman Catholic] archbishop was especially surprising, given his reputation for acknowledging and apologizing to the victims of [Roman Catholic] pedophile priests.

As the [Roman Catholic] bishop of Wollongong, a town about 50 miles south of Sydney, he issued a formal apology to the diocese's victims.

[Roman Catholic] Archbishop Wilson came under scrutiny in 2010 on accusations of covering up two old cases of sexual abuse against children. In 2015, police formally charged him with concealing a serious offense regarding child sexual abuse.

Peter Creigh, a former altar boy, testified that he told [Roman Catholic] archbishop, then a parish priest, in 1976 that Father [sic - [Matthew 23:9, KJV](#)] Fletcher made him ... [CLL Note : perverse behavior by Roman Catholic priest]

Mr. Creigh was 10 years old at the time.

Prosecutors said the [Roman Catholic] archbishop was repeatedly told of sexual misconduct by Father [sic - Matthew 23:9, KJV] Fletcher, but failed each time to turn over to the authorities "information that might be of material assistance."

The [Roman Catholic] archbishop, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, testified that he had no memory of the conversation with Mr. Creigh.

Father [sic - Matthew 23:9, KJV] Fletcher died in 2006, just a year after being sentenced for the rape of a 13-year-old boy in the late 1980s .

[Roman Catholic] Archbishop Wilson, who vehemently denied the accusations against him and made four attempts to have the charges dismissed, faces a maximum sentence of two years.

The outcome was closely watched by survivors of sexual abuse, who said the decision should spur the [Roman Catholic false] church to take further action.

"This conviction in an Australian court signals that it's time for the Vatican to show it is serious about acting on child sexual abuse, and accept Wilson's resignation ," said Chris MacIsaac, a spokeswoman for Broken Rites [CLL: Broken Rites Australia - <http://www.brokenrites.org.au/drupal/>], a victims' advocacy group.

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Broken Rites Australia

BACKGROUND: How [Roman Catholic] Archbishop Philip Wilson was put in charge of managing the [Roman Catholic false] church's response to child-abuse crimes <http://www.brokenrites.org.au/drupal/node/162>
By a Broken Rites researcher, (updated 1 June 2018)

E-mail below sent out May 30, 2018

ri600Date: Wed, 30 May 2018
From: Christians for Life and Liberty
Subject: (Vatican/Chile) All 34 Chilean Roman Catholic Bishops submit resignations to JESUIT Pope Francis in Rome - May 18, 2018

Christians for Life and Liberty (CLL)
aka **Columbia Christians for Life (CCL)**
Columbia, South Carolina
May 30, 2018

(Vatican / Chile)

All 34 Chilean Roman Catholic Bishops submit resignations to
JESUIT Pope Francis
in Rome - May 18, 2018

Historic offer of resignation of entire Episcopal conference of Chile's Roman Catholic Bishops (34)
related to sex crimes committed by sodomite pedophile Roman Catholic priests and the cover-up
thereof by the Chilean Roman Catholic Hierarchy.

New York Times
All of Chile's [**Roman**] Catholic Bishops Offer to Quit Over [**Sodomite Pedophile Priests**] Sex Abuse Scandal
<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/world/europe/chile-bishops-resign-sex-abuse-francis.html>
May 18, 2018
Excerpts:

'VATICAN CITY - All 34 of Chile's Roman Catholic bishops offered their resignations on Friday over a child sexual abuse scandal, ... The mass resignation - the first of its kind, according to the Vatican - came after Pope Francis accused the bishops at an emergency meeting this week of failing to investigate complaints, allowing evidence to be destroyed, and covering up for abusive priests by moving them from place to place.'

continued...

' "This really makes history, with a whole hierarchy remitting their resignation to the pope," said Gerard O'Connell, a journalist who has long covered the Vatican.'

New York Times

All of Chile's [Roman] Catholic Bishops Offer to Quit Over [Sodomite Pedophile Priests] Sex Abuse Scandal

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/world/europe/chile-bishops-resign-sex-abuse-francis.html>

May 18, 2018



Pope Francis with Chile's bishops at the Vatican this week. He accused them of "grave negligence" in protecting "vulnerable children."
CreditVatican, via Agence France-Presse - Getty Images

[Emphasis, comments added; portion omitted]

VATICAN CITY -All 34 of Chile's Roman Catholic bishops offered their resignations on Friday over a child sexual abuse scandal, and asked forgiveness for the "pain they caused the victims, the pope, the people of God, and our country for the grave errors and omissions we committed."

The mass resignation - the first of its kind, according to the Vatican - came after Pope Francis accused the bishops at an emergency meeting this week of failing to investigate complaints, allowing evidence to be destroyed, and covering up for abusive priests by moving them from place to place. He said the systemic failures had left him "perplexed and ashamed."

Outrage over the scandal has shaken the church for years , but it was stirred anew in January when Pope Francis publicly defended Bishop Juan Barros Madrid, whom he appointed to the Diocese of Osorno in 2015. Bishop Barros had been accused of ignoring and covering up the repeated abuse of minors by the Chilean priest Fernando Karadima.

The fallout prompted the pope to assign two investigators, who took the testimony of 64 people and produced a damning 2,300-page report on clerical sexual abuses in Chile and attempts to conceal the activity. The report detailed widespread failings on the part of the church hierarchy, and led to this week's three-day meeting of the bishops at the Vatican.

The pope may accept or reject the resignations individually, though it was not immediately clear when that would happen. Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos Pérez, general secretary of the Chilean Bishops' Conference, said the men would remain in their positions until the pope made his decisions.

Bishop Barros was among those who offered to resign. Juan Carlos Claret, a spokesman for Osorno's Lay Organization, which organized protests against him, said on Friday that Bishop Barros should be the first to be let go, "hopefully as soon as possible."

"Today's announcement was a surprise, given what we saw this week - bishops smiling and acting like they were on a spiritual retreat," Mr. Claret said. But the crisis was "far from over," he added, and would only be put to rest once the pope made his decisions. He said

the results of the Vatican investigation should be “turned over to a court of justice.”

Juan Carlos Cruz, whose accusations helped lead to Father Karadima’s prosecution, said on Friday that the mass resignation was “an enormous victory for survivors of abuse all over the world.”

Bishops had been warned, he said, that they would “no longer be able to hide behind secrecy and darkness, blaming victims and making them feel guilty. The focus will now be on the victims, as it should be.”

In a document the Vatican prepared for this week’s meeting, the pope took direct aim at Chilean church leaders, whom he accused of “grave negligence” in protecting “vulnerable children.”

The document was made public on Thursday by Canal 13 television in Chile, and was confirmed as authentic by the Vatican on Friday.

It cited liberally from the report by the two investigators, the Rev. [sic - Psalm 111:9, KJV] Charles J. Scicluna and the Rev. [sic - Psalm 111:9, KJV] Jordi Bertomeu.

In the document, Francis said the bishops had failed to investigate claims of sexual abuse even when there was clear evidence crimes had been committed. He accused the bishops of moving priests accused of misconduct from diocese to diocese, even into positions “that imply daily and direct contact with minors.”

In one note, Francis accused the bishops of allowing “compromising documents” to be destroyed, and of “demonstrating an absolute lack of respect for the canonical procedure.” The pope said he was “perplexed and ashamed.”

The situation was so serious, Francis said, that removing people from their positions would not be enough. “It would be a serious omission on our part not to delve into the roots” of what had happened in Chile, he said, and discover “the dynamics that made it possible for such attitudes and evils to occur.”

In their statement on Friday, the bishops noted the victims’ “perseverance and their courage, despite the personal, spiritual, social and familial difficulties they had to face, often accompanied by incomprehension and the attacks of the ecclesiastical community.”

The Rev. [sic - Psalm 111:9, KJV] Juan Ignacio González, the bishop of San Bernardo, read the statement, signed by all the bishops, at a news conference in Rome.

continued...

“This really makes history, with a whole hierarchy remitting their resignation to the

pope," said Gerard O'Connell, a journalist who has long covered the Vatican. "It clearly shows that they have understood the determination of the pope to deal in a decisive and clear way with abuse, not just sexual but also of power and conscience."

Pascale Bonnefoy reported from Santiago, Chile.

Related Coverage

[Pope Francis Admits 'Grave Errors' in Chile Sex Abuse Cases](#)

April 11, 2018

[Letter Suggests Pope Knew About Abuse Complaints, Despite Denials](#)

Feb. 5, 2018

[Abuse Victims Meet With Pope Francis: 'We Need Concrete Actions'](#)

May 2, 2018

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[**Roman**] Catholic Church in Chile

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_in_Chile

On **May 18, 2018** every member of the Chilean Episcopal conference offered his resignation to **Pope Francis**

after he had summoned them to Rome to discuss the sexual abuse scandal rocking the Chilean church.

Unless and until the Pope accepts these resignations the members of the conference continue in their positions. [5]

All of Chile's bishops offer resignations after meeting pope on abuse

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/05/18/all-chiles-bishops-offer-resignations-after-meeting-pope-abuse>

May 18, 2018



In a decision which appears to be without precedent in the history of the church, all 34 Chilean bishops, including two cardinals, who participated in the summit with Pope Francis over the past three days, announced today that they have “handed in our resignations to the Holy Father [sic - **BLASPHEMY** - John 17:11, KJV] :, in written form, so that he can freely decide for each one of us.”

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Pope Francis Saves 34 Pedophile Bishops From Serving Prison Time

<https://yournewswire.com/pope-francis-saves-pedophile-bishops/>

May 20, 2018

Pope Francis has saved all 34 Chilean bishops accused of operating a pedophile ring from having to serve a prison sentence.

Following a meeting this week with the Pope, the Vatican decided the best way to cover-up their crimes was to have the bishops resign.

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

Backgrounder: What happened before Chile's bishops resigned

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/backgrounder-what-happened-chiles-bishops-resigned>

May 18, 2018

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New York Times

Pope Francis Admits 'Grave Errors' in Chile Sex Abuse Cases

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/world/americas/pope-francis-sex-abuse-apology.html>

April 11, 2018

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New York Times

Vatican Shines Light on Child Abuse as Claims Against Priests Persist

[https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/world/europe/catholic-church-sex-abuse.html?](https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/world/europe/catholic-church-sex-abuse.html?action=click&contentCollection=Europe&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=EndOfArticle>ype=article)

[action=click&contentCollection=Europe&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=EndOfArticle>ype=article](https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/world/europe/catholic-church-sex-abuse.html?action=click&contentCollection=Europe&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=EndOfArticle>ype=article)

Oct. 5, 2017

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