

CIASE REPORT OBSERVATIONS – Mark-Vincent Healy – 5 October 2021

Following the release of the CIASE Report in France yesterday, I am sure that the staggering figures from France will have caused shock waves around the world. There would also appear to be a clear need to revisit the figures produced in other reports in Australia, Belgium, Chili, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, as unrealistic, underreported and even as business unfinished.

France has unveiled what has always been suggested as a far more prolific scale of abuse of children by the Catholic Clergy where in report after report, numbers have never been more realistic but still have a ways to go according to some experts.

Of the clerical sexual abuse of children reported in the CIASE Report, 82.8% was of boys which is similarly reported in other jurisdictions. 17.2% involved the sexual abuse of girls. There is a need to raise awareness of the gender specific impact of clerical child sexual abuse on boys in particular who are the majority of victims interjurisdictionally. I have been calling for this since I met with Pope Francis in 2014. The American John Jay Report was one of the first Catholic Church reports to confirm that over 80% of abuse was of boys.

The report went on to record that:

- 21.1% of first-time abuse was of children under the age of 9;
- 61.7% was on children between the ages of 10 to 13;
- 16.5% was on children between the ages of 14 to 17, and
- 0.7% was recorded between the ages of 18 to 20.

It's a staggering admission that the 'living' number of abuse survivors of clerical child sexual abuse in France is 216,000. I am very upset thinking of how many have passed away, where their day of acknowledgement has come too late.

Just to clarify, 3,000 paedophile priests of the current number of priests in France, 21,930 priests would be 13.68% of the population of priests today. However, the figure of 3,000 paedophile priests revealed in the CIASE Report is noted as 3% of the estimated total number of priests in France over the last 70 years.

If the 216,000 living victims represent 50% of the total number of victims of clerical child sexual abuse in France, then two factors emerge.

One, that approximately 8% of French priests over a 70 year period were paedophiles sexually abusing children. However, the work of Richard Sipe would imply there was anything up to a total of 750,000 victims for a population of 3,000 paedophile priests in France over the last 70 years. The figures need to be examined further as shocking as they are. Already survivors in France are reporting that the numbers are conservative.

Second, that the projections of Richard Sipe are sadly closer to the reality of clerical child sexual abuse where each paedophile abused on average 250 children over their lifetime. Even in review of the figures of 3,000 paedophile priests abusing 216,000 victims, it means each priest abused on average 72 victims, 72 children. These figures require further clarification but are monumental as reported.

That one person could have caused such destruction supported for the first time by the CIASE Report is truly terrifying as it is distressing. It also points to the fact that no such level of abuse of children could have taken place but for the aiding and abetting of those

perpetrators by acts of conspiracy, collusion and commitment both nationally and internationally, and by Church and State. This must be investigated further.

An essential factor in the genesis of the CIASE Report is given in the highlighting of various cases by the media which may well have acted as a catalyst in the demand for transparency in this report, but without the efforts of survivors 'our society would still be living in ignorance, or denial, of what happened.' However, questions must be asked why the media could have gotten it so wrong in reporting the scale of abuse when there were so many reliable sources denouncing the low figures reported in previous reports. I was quoting the underreporting estimates from the outset in my dossier on clerical child sexual abuse when I was given an audience with Pope Francis in 2014.

Of great shame to the Ministry of National Education in France perhaps, is the fact that 30% of the reported clerical child sexual abuse is recorded as having taken place in schools and another 23% as having taken place in regulated activities related to education such as scouts or school patronage. Thus, a child's educational environment was the primary opportunity of perpetrating clerical child sexual abuse. Parochial abuse revolving around the local parish was recorded as 32% of the clerical child sexual abuse which took place.

In Ireland, the injustice borne by children sexually abused in national schools, primary and post-primary, has received the harshest treatment by the Irish State, even following a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) Judgment against Ireland in January 2014 (<https://bit.ly/3k5KTEq>). Ireland has obstructed justice in its failure to provide a viable Action Plan (<https://bit.ly/2X0Tsc8>) with further promises not to deliver one until 2022, eight years after the Judgment issued by the European Court of Human Rights. French survivors could well do without such aggravation and torment.

Perhaps those children abused in French schools will not only sympathise with those abused in schools in Ireland but may want to cite the ECtHR ruling issued against Ireland in order to seek redress for their violations suffered in schools in France.

In Ireland, there was no evidence of systemic child sexual abuse of girls but there was repeated systemic child sexual abuse of boys as stated in the Ryan Report or the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA) Report in 2009. Like Ireland, perhaps it is time for a swift Apostolic Visitation to France. Pope Francis cannot remain on the periphery of national scandals with international dimensions of child sexual abuse which extended well beyond the borders of France.

Why did the CEF and CORREF take so many years to investigate Clergy Child Sexual Abuse in France?

The CIASE Report (<https://www.ciaase.fr>) will require analysis to review the extent of abuse of children in France and overseas. How quickly France imposes clear and legally binding duties and obligations on the religious in France and itself remains to be seen?

There must also be full participation of survivors not only as witnesses but contributors in the design and implementation of the policies, procedures and practices necessary in addressing the issues of child protection and those of survivor needs across a number of compensatory measures.

What the French Bishops and Congregations are going to do in response has yet to materialise. Earlier reports of compensation have been rolled back to contributions. It is a far more complex issue than a litigious one to ascertain.

There is a need to evaluate congregations of the CORREF which no doubt used a 'transfer policy' to 'handle' their criminally abusing paedophile members. An analysis of the biggest report in Ireland, the CICA Report 2009 showed that there was widespread transfer of religious in order to avoid detection and scandal. The 'transfer policy' was a clear demonstration of the Catholic religious treating children with contempt to preserve an ill-gotten reputation and self-interest.

I am certain that congregations of the CORREF employed the same aberrant 'transfer policy', aiding and abetting perpetrators in acts of conspiracy, collusion and commitment both nationally and internationally. I hope this may come under scrutiny in France following the release of the CIASE Report.

On a personal note, I was abused from the ages of 9 to 12, between 1969 and 1973, in primary and post-primary school, at St Mary's College, Rathmines, Dublin. My two abusers were from the French Congregation called the Spiritains in France (<https://www.spiritains.org>) and Spiritans in Ireland (<https://spiritan.ie>) with a Generalate Office in Rome (<https://spiritanroma.org>). The two abusers were Fr Arthur Carragher CSSp and Fr Henry Moloney CSSp (since laicised in January 2015), both are now dead. Fr Carragher on 10 January 2011 and Mr Moloney on 28 August 2021. I have spent the last 15 years researching the congregation. Both of my abusers were reported to the school authorities in 1971 and 1973 respectively. They were both transferred following such reports of sexual predation of boys in Ireland. The first was sent to Canada where they continued abusing boys, a fact discovered in August 2018 during Pope Francis' visit to Ireland. The second was sent to Sierra Leone where they too continued their sexual abuse of boys. Upon return to Ireland in 1980 the latter abuser was to continue his criminal abuse of boys where only last month more victims came forward. Congregations with such international reach, in over 63 countries, caused an affront to the international community. All missionary orders had and have similar reach to disperse their abusers globally and we need to investigate the scale of such contempt for children worldwide.

Glaringly, there is still a huge absence of survivor voice and participation included in any process of accountability save for in providing painful testimony. Being a part of the processing of the data and on the policies has to be inclusive. It is not. This must change so as to include various survivor interests specific to gender, race, religion and none, disabilities, economic deprivation, educational needs, mental health, minority groups, addiction, incarceration, self-harming, suicide and intergenerational considerations.

The overturning of the Barbarin criminal conviction diminished trust in the law and faith in the duties and obligations of those in authority in both Church and State in France. It may not have been criminal in the eyes of French courts, but it was always morally and ethically the responsibility of Barbarin to have reported, to have acted. Clearly there is a need to demonstrate the culpable failures of both Church and State in the travesty and scandal of child sexual abuse in general and clerical child sexual abuse in particular.

Following the CIASE Report it is clearly a time when there is greater need for action than apology. Acknowledgement of the implicit and explicit involvement of the Church and State in how such abuse of children could have persisted needs to be issued in Church and State statements for all to hear.

There is a need to work even closer together to see such matters are exposed in the systemic mechanisms that not only allowed these levels of child abuse to operate in the past, but to learn how to disrupt it more effectively into the future on a global level in our willingness to deal with it. Perhaps we ought to see how to force change by initiating such investigations concurrently rather than consecutively. Italy would be a good start where the number of victims would dwarf that of France with an estimate of one million victims.

Table estimating the scale of child abuse in the Catholic Church by example country

Country	Source	Catholic Population	Priests	2%	4%	6%	7%	8%
Australia		5,239,000	3,115	62	125	187	218	249
	Greeley			3,115	6,230	9,345	10,903	12,460
	Sipe			15,575	31,150	46,725	54,513	62,300
Belgium		7,775,000	7,279	146	291	437	510	582
	Greeley			7,279	14,558	21,837	25,477	29,116
	Sipe			36,395	72,790	109,185	127,383	145,580
Canada		13,070,000	8,441	169	338	506	591	675
	Greeley			8,441	16,882	25,323	29,544	33,764
	Sipe			42,205	84,410	126,615	147,718	168,820
France		44,499,000	21,930	439	877	1,316	1,535	1,754
	Greeley			21,930	43,860	65,790	76,755	87,720
	Sipe			109,650	219,300	328,950	383,775	438,600
Germany		26,297,000	18,365	367	735	1,102	1,286	1,469
	Greeley			18,365	36,730	55,095	64,278	73,460
	Sipe			91,825	183,650	275,475	321,388	367,300
Great Britain		4,787,000	5,653	113	226	339	396	452
	Greeley			5,653	11,306	16,959	19,786	22,612
	Sipe			28,265	56,530	84,795	98,928	113,060
Ireland		4,161,000	4,690	94	188	281	328	375
	Greeley			4,690	9,380	14,070	16,415	18,760
	Sipe			23,450	46,900	70,350	82,075	93,800
Italy		57,665,000	50,148	1,003	2,006	3,009	3,510	4,012
	Greeley			50,148	100,296	150,444	175,518	200,592
	Sipe			250,740	501,480	752,220	877,590	1,002,960
Poland		35,010,000	28,457	569	1,138	1,707	1,992	2,277
	Greeley			28,457	56,914	85,371	99,600	113,828
	Sipe			142,285	284,570	426,855	497,998	569,140
USA		64,621,000	44,906	898	1,796	2,694	3,143	3,592
	Greeley			44,906	89,812	134,718	157,171	179,624
	Sipe			224,530	449,060	673,590	785,855	898,120

Fr Andrew M. Greeley, Professor of Sociology at University of Chicago, who believed there are 50 victims per priest.

A. W. Richard Sipe was a psychotherapist and psychiatrist assistant in the state of Maryland. If you read the Sipe Report (<http://archives.weirdload.com/sipe.html>) he stated, "Well established studies show that the average paedophile has 250 or more victims over his lifetime".

The CIASE Report is a shift in the right direction in reporting on the scale of abuse in the Catholic Church.

However, the figure of 216,000 survivors (alive?) or victims (both alive and dead?), of 3,000 priests, averaging 72 victims per priest seems conservative to me. I have difficulty with the use of 3% of priests in France over 70 years which is a percentage I expect to be higher, at least twice or three times that. It's making the argument that there were only a few or a very low percentage of paedophile priests in the French clergy or male religious.

The sources who argue the percentage of religious priests who are paedophiles are as follows:

- a. 2% as claimed by Pope Francis (interview with Eugenio Scalfari [IT <https://bit.ly/1m6Uy5S> - EN <https://bit.ly/2O1u6VS>]) in keeping with Dr. Richard Sipe in 1990, John Jay Report at <https://bit.ly/3lio1TM> page 216.
- b. 4% as claimed by Bryan T. Froehle in 1997, John Jay Report, at page 27, - <https://bit.ly/3lio1TM>.
- c. 6% as claimed by Spotlight (<https://bit.ly/2PtKISL>) in keeping with Dr. Richard Sipe references made in the film where 90 priests are the estimate from a population of 1,500
- d. 7% as claimed by Australian Royal Commission Report <http://jrnl.ie/3224627> based on allegation between 1950 and 2010.
- e. Variations on the percentage are also noted where NSAC claim Boston actually has 8.9% of the Catholic religious are paedophiles

Finally, I wrote to a friend in Italy, Francesco Zanardi, founder of Rete L'Abuso, to encourage him and let him know that we ought to support a call for a similar investigation of the Catholic Church in Italy. Francesco has never given up as we should not him.

If the problem in Italy is political inertia, based on some false notion of pride or reputation, then there is a need to change what it is to be proud of in Italy. People are fundamentally proud of what is good. Let's make doing right by children something that is synonymous with all that is best in being Italian, with all that is best in all nations. Like one might say, "come to our country where children are loved, protected and cherished."

There are also other initiatives to consider, like that proposed at the Bern Symposium where we go outside our national borders to seek support and assistance from the EU or the Council of Europe.

There are also opportunities to consider that might help encourage the clergy and politicians to embrace the need to review the past under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, where all signatories would have to demonstrate compliance as a signatory of such conventions and membership of the esteemed United Nations.

Pride, dignity and decency can be useful badges of honour in reminding all countries of the importance of the human rights of its people, of its children.

The CIASE Report is clearly a departure in reporting clerical child sexual abuse which finally comes closer to stating its true extent of abuse inflicted on children worldwide.