

## Where Responsibility for the Mismanagement of the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis is Really Located

It appears Bishops have been operating under directives from the Vatican to not "divulge what may bring harm or dishonor to Holy Church", which can be understood as a command to cover up clergy sexual misconduct. Study carefully an oath of office that bishops and cardinals take:

"I [name and surname], Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, promise and swear to be faithful henceforth and forever, while I live, to Christ and his Gospel, being constantly obedient to the Holy Roman Apostolic Church, to Blessed Peter in the person of the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, and of his canonically elected Successors; to maintain communion with the Catholic Church always, in word and deed; not to reveal to any one what is confided to me in secret, nor to divulge what may bring harm or dishonor to Holy Church; to carry out with great diligence and faithfulness those tasks to which I am called by my service to the Church, in accord with the norms of the law. So help me Almighty God." (From "Voice from the Desert" Blog. <http://reform-network.net/?p=2571>)

After professing this oath, a Bishop would be committing a serious sin (as defined by the Church above) if he were to reveal anything that "brings harm or dishonor to Holy Church."

It is time to hold responsible those who draft and enforce policies such as the above oath, which demand that Bishops silence and cover up clergy sexual abuse.