



Follow the Money!

Outrage over priest sexual abuse scandal warranted, subject to exploitation

The gravity of sex abuse is intensified when it involves priests. And again, when decisions, whether well-intentioned but ineffective or self-serving and skirting responsibility, prolong the damage.

Last year’s Child Victims Act waived a statute of limitations, resurrecting 50 years of abuse cases, most of which occurred over 15 years ago, into “breaking news.” The public sees this as an epidemic of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. But justifiable outrage can be exploited, or managed for results beyond justice.

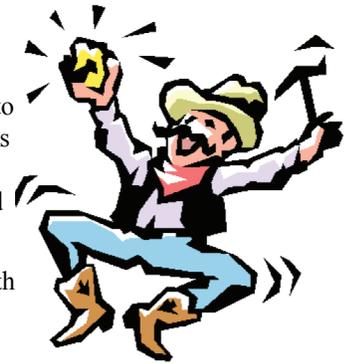
Starting in the mid-1980s, Attorney Jeff Anderson was one of the first lawyers to bring suits over sexual abuse, particularly abuse by clergy. A partner in Anderson and Reinhart, he advocated the aggressive pursuit of priest sex abuse cases. He said that he was “sitting on a gold mine, and he needed to mine it,” But his mining over-extended the 12-lawyer firm and led to his break with Reinhardt & Anderson in 2003.

A basic strategy by Anderson and others like him was to overcome statutory barriers to abuse lawsuits. Advocates used the delayed discovery rule as a way to suspend the clock on statutes of limitations. Since abuse victims may not be fully aware of injury until years later, delayed discovery is used to offset strict application of a statute of limitations.

In 1989 a delayed discovery amendment gave victims six years after recognizing an injury was caused by sexual abuse to file a claim. Given that the clock’s start could be in “years or decades,” as determined by one’s recognition, the amendment created a nearly limitless “statute of limitations.”

In 1996 the Minnesota Supreme Court set a definable limit--six years after turning 18. Advocates tried each year after to pass a version of a law removing limits. Then in 2013 the legislature went all out, with a three-year waiver, eliminating ANY limit on the time to bring a lawsuit.

The waiver blew open the doors to Anderson’s clergy sex abuse gold mine.



It’s worth noting the breakthrough

Anderson said that he ‘was sitting on a gold mine, and he needed to mine it’

came on the heels of Anderson’s contributions of \$25,000 each to the House and Senate DFL Caucuses in 2012. With a DFL majority, DFL House

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Why Raymond de Souza

This year we are fortunate to have Raymond de Souza as Keynote Speaker.

The times are critical, not only for defending the Church from attacks, but increasingly, for defending religious freedom itself. And yet, if Catholics are not fully grounded in their faith and practicing their faith out loud, their presence in the public square, let alone their effectiveness, is highly unlikely.

A growing sense of defenselessness today is furthered by the increasing loss of religious norms and Christian values in our society. We see this daily, as secular power drives out religious virtue. Loss of these inner norms and values give way to outside rules, regulations, and a focus on mere expediency.

Without holding on to these norms and

values, we place ourselves at the mercy of secular power. The voice of Catholics in the public square is but a whisper.

Catholics today also face a growing intrusion of government power in our lives. A good example is the Health and Human Services “contraception mandate” under the Affordable Care Act. The latest example is the recent report by the GAO that, in spite of all the claims that the ACA would not promote abortion, “the report identified over a thousand health plans eligible for federal premium subsidies that cover elective abortions.”

It is the loss of the inner bulwarks of self-respect and self-defense that allows such power to dominate. That is why, given the challenging environment facing the Church today, Raymond de Souza’s

message is uniquely suited for inspiring and engaging Catholics in defending the Church, our faith, and religious freedom.

As a Catholic Action militant seeking to “re-evangelize the baptized,” his discussion of Good or Evil: Who Decides will help ground Catholics in their faith. His inspiration can bring back the expression “staunch Catholic” from a time when such Catholics were living their faith and countering the inroads of an ever more adamant secular humanist culture.

This is the foundation we need for Catholics to come forward in defense of the Church and our faith, and to maintain an effective presence in the public square.

Join us! Help defend the Church, our faith, and religious freedom.

Catholic Defense League

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Defend the Faith AND Leave a Legacy

Remember the Catholic Defense League if you are writing or updating your will or trust. Your bequest will help protect the religious and civil rights of your children and grandchildren. Your gift or bequest will serve as a fitting memorial to your defense of our faith and Church.

Contact **Catholic United Financial Foundation** about the benefits of a no-obligation estate plan and planned charitable giving. Call 800-568-6670.

A Lesson About Fairness

Last fall California Governor Jerry Brown taught a lesson about fairness. By vetoing a bill, which would have revived sexual abuse claims long time-barred under California's statute of limitations, Brown refused to allow the law to be twisted into a crude tool of vengeance.

The goal of law is justice, but perfect justice is never possible. Statutes of limitations are a time-honored way of striking a balance, based on fairness. They reflect the good judgment that remedies for legal wrongs must be fair.

A mark of bad law is the amount of collateral damage it does to innocent individuals, to vital institutions, and to society at large in seeking to remedy an injustice. The damage is often done under the guise of well-meaning intentions to remedy an injustice or identified problem. But the damage is nonetheless real.

In vetoing the waiver legislation, Brown reasoned, "There comes a time when an individual or organization should be secure in the reasonable expectation that past acts are indeed in the past and not subject to further lawsuits. With the passage of time, evidence may be lost or disposed of, memories fade, and witnesses move away or die.

"Statutes of Limitations are grounded

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Caucus Treasurer, Rep. Steve Simon, then authored the statute of limitations waiver bill. Campaign Finance Board records also show Anderson donated \$2,000 to Simon's Secretary of State campaign in 2013. A Julie Anderson--same address as Jeff--and Anderson's law partner, Mike Finnegan, both gave \$2,000 for that campaign.

Anderson's donations in 2012 are part of a total of over \$274,000 given to DFL Senate Caucus, DFL House Caucus, and Minnesota DFL party since 2000.

Just over a month ago Anderson contributed \$50,000 to WIN Minnesota, a DFL Super Pac. He might have been rewarding the players. Or he might be helping to ensure that sufficient support exists in 2016 to pass an extension of the waiver, as was tried this year in Hawaii. Unless of course Minnesota dioceses are tapped out--bankrupted--before then.

in prudence. Originating in Roman law, they have survived through the centuries in English Common Law to our own time because they embody good sense and basic fairness. No person or institution can adequately defend against revived claims from several decades ago."

Excerpted from *A Lesson in Equality from California* at thepublicdiscourse.com

Recent Gifts In Memory of:

Elena Manciu — From the Manciu Family Joanna Novotny — From Joseph Novotny
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Recent Gifts In Honor of:

Msgr Thomas M. Ploof—From Mary Lou Langdon
Priests and Religious of St. Agnes Church St. Paul—From Edward Gorka

Will you help? You Are a Vital Part of Our Mission

The Catholic Defense League is committed to defending the Church against attacks, protecting religious liberty, and engaging the voice of Catholic laity in the public square. But this isn't possible without the financial support of our members.

Will you help? Attend our Annual Dinner and Fundraiser! Or, if you cannot attend, consider tickets to sponsor seminarians or simply making a gift to CDL.

We operate on a shoestring and involve volunteer effort wherever we can. (We now have three.) Anything you give, whatever amount, will help.

And whether or not you contribute, please pray for the Catholic Defense League and for success in its mission. Thank you for your support.



CATHOLIC DEFENSE LEAGUE *of Minnesota*

Annual Dinner and Fundraiser

Monday, September 29

St. John the Baptist Church, 835 2nd Avenue NW, New Brighton

Mass — 6:00 pm Concelebrated with Knights of Columbus Honor Guard

Master of Ceremonies — David Strom

Welcome — 7:00 pm **Kelly Rowe**, President

Dinner — Catered by **TST Creative Catering**, St Paul

Program — 7:30 pm



Catholic Defender of the Year — Michele Lentz



Michele Lentz is recognized for her initiative and courage in organizing the Child Protection League. CPL was launched in response to the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, or “anti-bullying” bill, which uses the public education system to

promote politically correct attitudes on human sexuality and “alternative lifestyles.” Devout Catholic, homeschooler, Michele Lentz has also worked in public relations, campaign management, and legislative assistance to a State Senator.

Keynote Presentation — Raymond de Souza



Good or Evil: Who Decides

Raymond de Souza has over 25 years experience speaking as an international Lay Catholic Apologist, Pro-Life activist, and Catholic Action militant seeking to “re-evangelize the baptized.” He is Founder and Director of St. Gabriel

Communications, Program Director for Portuguese-speaking countries for Human Life International, and a host on EWTN. De Souza recently edited and republished “Defense of the Seven Sacraments” by King Henry VIII.

Join us for an evening of fellowship and inspiration!

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Enclosed: \$ ____ for ____ Dinner Tickets -\$35 ____ Sponsor Seminarian-\$34 ____ Table of 8-\$200 (by Sept 26)

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Why Michele Lentz for Catholic Defender of the Year

This year CDL is pleased to recognize Michele Lentz as Catholic Defender of the Year. She is a wonderful example for Catholics who are willing to defend the Church, our faith, religious freedom, and show up in the public square.

Michele was chosen because of her courageous efforts to prevent the deceptively named “Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act” (the anti-bullying bill) from becoming law. She worked tirelessly in building the Child Protection League, which exposed the hidden agenda in this legislation.

That agenda builds on an already overly explicit curriculum established over the past 20 years in Minnesota’s public schools. The curriculum readily abandons students’ status as persons, leading them to seek refuge in a depersonalized state, which then frees them from responsibility.

Under the guise of creating sensitivity to “alternative lifestyles” as a way to

“prevent bullying” students are required to internalize—and now celebrate—politically correct attitudes on human sexuality and “alternative lifestyles.” This enshrines behaviors so contrary to the traditional and Christian values of many families whose children are in public schools. Eighteen other categories of those being “protected from bullying” are rarely mentioned.

If there was any question about the drivers of this agenda, consider one Gay Lesbian, Straight Education Network email bulletin. The day after Governor Dayton signed Minnesota’s Bullying Bill, the GLSEN stepped forward to take credit for “their” victory.

Already efforts are underway to create special programs in public schools that will “affirm and celebrate” the diversity of LGBT values. Unchallenged this would create an increasingly hostile environment in the public school education system for students and families who are living their Catholic faith.

Major UpComing Event

2014 Rediscover: Catholic Celebration

Friday and Saturday, October 3 - 4
Minneapolis Convention Center

Join with fellow Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to celebrate the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith! Be inspired by internationally-known speakers and great music.

Featuring: Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, Scott Hahn, Father Dave Dwyer, Curtis Martin, Leah Darrow, Kelly Wahlquist, Jeff Cavins, and more!

Friday: For young adults 18-39 6:30-11 pm
Saturday: 8 to 5:15 pm

Adult - \$20 Youth - \$10 Child - \$7

Register at rediscover-faith.org
Or call 651-291-4411

This is a key event for CDL Members. Defense of Church, our faith, and religious freedom starts in the pews.