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Pope Benedict XVI and Clerical Sex Abuse

Some links to recent statements
and articles about Pope
Benedict XVI's handling of
clerical sex abuse cases

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In recent days a number of stories have appeared in the media which question Pope Benedict's handling of cases involving sex abuse of minors by clergy. In light of these stories we think it is important to recognize that

Benedict XVI, both before and after being elected Pope, has worked energetically to address these cases and to eradicate sexual abuse in the Church. Many people have expressed a wish to know more about this matter. While we do not endorse everything stated here, we make available some links to recent articles that address Pope Benedict's record.

We also include a link to the statement of the USCCB, which contains the following words: "We know from our experience how Pope Benedict is deeply concerned for those who have been harmed by sexual abuse and how he has strengthened the Church's response to victims and supported our efforts to deal with perpetrators."

Statement of the United States
Catholic Conference of Bishops
expressing concern for victims of

clergy sexual abuse and thanking Pope Benedict for his leadership, March 30, 2010.

John Allen, “ A Papal Conversion ,” in *The New York Times* , March 27, 2010.

Raymond D’Souza, “ A Response to the New York Times ,” in *National Review Online* , March 27, 2010.

Msgr. Charles J. Scicluna (Promoter of Justice for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who handles the cases brought against abusive priests), “ Church on Strict Patrol ,” March 14, 2010.

Fr. Thomas Brundage, JLC (presiding judge for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in the case of Father Lawrence Murphy), “ Setting the Record Straight in the Case of Abusive Milwaukee Priest Father Lawrence Murphy .”

Cardinal William J. Levada
(successor to Cardinal Ratzinger as
head of the Congregation for the
Doctrine of the Faith), "The New
York Times and Pope Benedict XVI:
How it Looks to an American in the
Vatican," March 26, 2010.

Pastoral Letter of The Holy Father
Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of
Ireland, March 19, 2010.

George Weigel, First Things Online,
March 29, 2010.

*The Nature and Scope of the Problem
of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic
Priests and Deacons in the United
States: A Research Study Conducted
by the John Jay College of Criminal
Justice*. For the Executive Summary,
click here. For a graph showing the
number of alleged incidents between
1950-2002 click here. Note that the
number of allegations has declined
steeply ever since 1980.

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