

Sexual Assault Crisis in Church & Government

Alvin Koah, Iris Yun, Michael Hammett, LaQuintta Newton

Professor Sonya Okoli

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### Abstract

This group research paper discuss the reprehensible acts done by individuals in power and authority against vulnerable victims who trusted them. The victims are innocent, young, still developing mentally, genuinely naïve, and trusting of everyone. The victims are also old, developed and mature. We point this out because the age of the victims doesn't matter. The issue is the individuals who commit these disgusting acts use their power, influence and authority to get away with evil. The acts discussed in this paper are very disheartening, sad and devastating to the victims, to society and to mankind. The brutal facts are that it will continue to happen and there is not much we can do to stop it. Sexual assault against the young happens every where. It happens in the secular arena. It also happens within the church. Our paper focuses primarily on the Catholic Church sex scandal. We will also share thoughts on sexual assault within the United States Government.

## **Sexual Assault Crisis in Church & Government**

The Catholic Church has long been the powerhouse of the Christian Religion from the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Century to the Protestant Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. By and far, the Catholic

tenets and creeds have stood the test of time through the ages even through the turmoil

and changes of the Protestant Reformation. Catholicism is the largest Christian Religion with

over a billion members worldwide. Its Anti-Semitism views and Protestant persecutions have

driven schisms between all monotheistic religions. Therefore, the power of the Catholic Church

remains embedded in its hierarchy of conservatives, bent on maintaining the status quo that

keeps control over the masses of it's members.

### **Sexual Assault in the Catholic Church**

The control as we now see is devastating. The sexual abuse of children and other individuals has surfaced like never before. One would think with the recent media attention on the sex crisis in the Catholic Church that these findings are new. The sad reality is that there has been evidence, information and cover up for this crisis for centuries. The central issue is the practice and covering up of child abuse on a massive scale (Robertson, 2010, p.) This is

also the brutal facts that we must face as a world. In the book, Good to Great, we learned that a organization must confront these facts to become great. Is the brutal fact that the Catholic Church could never be great because of their actions? Is the brutal fact that a major church organization is simply a hoax for abusers to hide behind the cloth of priesthood and collect money? Maybe the brutal fact is that the abusers were never really hiding and society chose to ignore information.

The cover up of child abuse has been going on for to long within the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles settled a \$660 million dollar class action lawsuit (Robertson, 2010, p. ). This is only one church. Imagine all the parishes around the world. The statistics presented are horrendous and make no account of possible abuse in Africa and other developing regions where errant clergy have been posted. This would indicate that there is still a lack of passion for reform because all the church has done is move the abusers to another country. Silence by its' members, relocation of the abusive priests to other parishes and intimidation has shown that apathetic maneuvers by the Catholic Church leadership has made to slow down the process without making real changes. However, there is some hope, several watchdog organizations have birddogged to try and make some changes (McDonough, 2013). A term coined from one of our Ted Talks video the speaker shared a concept which was called looking around the corner. As we look around the corner what do we see with the Catholic Church?

We see a church that will continue to lose financially. Attendance is at a low. It is estimated that the church has paid off \$4 billion in judgements and settlements, at least a dozen dioceses filed for bankruptcy (Bainbridge 2018). The Catholic church will continue to lose in the future.

The Catholic Church has very deep roots in governments, city, states and federal levels. Could this be the reason why there is also so much abuse of power within the government? We were told to separate church and state in 1802, by Thomas Jefferson. Sadly, enough the Catholic Church and Government sexual abuse is horrendous. We began our comparison of our secular and church organization to include the sexual abuse that got President Bill Clinton impeached. Many will debate if it was sexual abuse because of consent, however one should consider there was abuse of power. One could also argue if the abuse of power is present there is higher risk for other abuses, including manipulation of a immature intern.

The President of the United States of America who was 49 years old had an sexual relationship affair with a 22 year old intern. The Clinton-Lewinsky scandal was highly publicized just as an affair. However with the new #metoo movement it is more understandable that the scandal was more of an abuse of power. While President Clinton has gone on to enjoy millions of dollars from speaking engagements, book tours and fame the same is not said for the victim. Monica Lewinsky was ostracized, bullied and shamed. This is not a foreign occurrence however in our government, the offenses started long ago. Let's look at President Thomas Jefferson, there is

great debate and evidence that he fathered several children from his slaves, one particular with great debate is Sally Hemings (Ellis, 2000). This was the 1800's. The current President of the United States has been accused by at least 19 women of sexual harassment and assault since the 1980s (Blumell & Huemmer, 2017).

The abuse of women and children are seen in both churches and secular organizations.

It is obvious that these two organizations have clearly disregarded every positive topic we learned in our the Servant Leadership class. The level 5 leadership doesn't exist. The leadership is abusive the direct opposite of level 5. There is no culture of discipline. There is a culture of lawlessness and live above the law. These laws are both moral law and the laws of the land. Finally, leading like Jesus is completely changed to lead like satan! Researching these organization make it painfully imperative as to why we should lead with the Servant Leadership style and most importantly like Jesus.

## References

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