

# Drawing Aside the Purple Curtain

*The Papal System Today: an Analysis of the News*

## The Invisible Children, Or, When Rome's Fake "Fathers" Become Real Fathers

Shaun Willcock

In mid-2019 I wrote an article entitled, *The Next Great Priestly Scandal: Priests who Have Fathered Illegitimate Children*.<sup>1</sup> The reader is urged to read that article before reading this one. The article dealt with the fact that all over the world, today no less than in times gone by, Roman Catholic priests, who are forbidden to marry and have to take a vow of celibacy, have fathered illegitimate children. This sin had not been given the attention it deserved, in large measure because the worldwide scandal of the sexual abuse of children by priests had dominated world headlines for decades, and also because, as the Roman Catholic new source, Zenit, admitted, "The topic of 'children of priests' has long been considered taboo".<sup>2</sup>

But from 2010 onwards the issue of priests fathering children began to attract attention, when many former lovers of priests, and their children, prepared to mount lawsuits. And the Vatican admitted in 2019 that it actually had a document of guidelines for priests who have violated their vow of celibacy and fathered children.<sup>3</sup> According to Vincent Doyle, himself the illegitimate son of a priest and who established a "support group" for children of priests worldwide, "It is the next scandal [to hit the Roman Catholic priesthood]. There are kids [of priests] everywhere."<sup>4</sup>

In 2023 the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors confirmed that it had begun the process of drawing up new guidelines.<sup>5</sup> This is what Rome always does. It stalls, it procrastinates, it dodges the issue, it promises action, it promises reform, it issues guidelines, it then says it is working on new guidelines... on and on it goes. But *nothing is ever actually done*. Or a few token changes are made to try to placate people and give the impression that Rome is acting decisively. It is all a lie.

At the end of my article, in which I gave many examples from the past and the present of priests fathering children, I wrote: "This scandal of priests fathering illegitimate children is going to be exposed more and more, as the years go by. It has occurred for centuries, but never before has it been so difficult to hush up than it is now."

Well, as I predicted, the scandal has not gone away. The Vatican "is continuing to draw a veil over the 'invisible' children of thousands of priests, despite three United Nations reports asking the Vatican to protect the rights of children fathered by clerics."<sup>6</sup> Let me be clear: the United Nations is a diabolical organisation and has a dismal track record of protecting children itself; but the point here is simply that, although the Vatican seeks to work hand in hand with the UN on many projects, it has completely ignored its reports on this matter. In other words, it supports the UN when to do so suits its own purposes, and ignores it when its own purposes are not served by it.

It was in 2014 that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Vatican "to take all necessary measures to ensure that the rights of those [priests'] children to know and to be cared for by their fathers is respected, as appropriate." It directed the Vatican to assess the number of children fathered by priests and find out who they were. That was almost a decade ago. But by 2023 the Vatican had done precisely...nothing.

Then in 2016 another UN report, responding to demands from children of priests in Ireland, urged the Irish Roman Catholic "Church" to "ensure measures to assist children fathered by Catholic priests in upholding their right to know and be cared for by their fathers." It asked the Irish government to

ensure that such children “born out of wedlock have legal certainty in respect of their family name”, and that “measures are taken with a view to minimizing the stigma or discrimination that could be faced by such children.” Again, by 2023 the Vatican had done precisely...nothing.

A third UN report was published in February 2023, urging the Irish Roman Catholic “Church” to “strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against... the children of Catholic priests.” I think it is safe to predict that, once again, Rome will do precisely...nothing.

As Vincent Doyle said, “The Vatican has dragged its heels on this issue, relegating us to invisibility, the invisible children.” The response to the 2014 call by the UN to care for the children of priests and religious is long overdue.”<sup>7</sup>

According to Church Militant, a Roman Catholic organisation, in 2022, studies had confirmed that a significant number of priests had pressurised their lovers to have abortions – despite the fact that Rome is officially opposed to abortion and rightly calls it the murder of the unborn. Doris Reisinger, a research fellow in the department of Catholic theology at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, said, “The immediate reaction of most clerical perpetrators who learn about their victims’ pregnancy is to persuade them to have an abortion.”

I will conclude this brief update to my previous 2019 article with a slightly edited excerpt from the conclusion to that one, for it is just as relevant and appropriate.

At the heart of the problem lies the diabolical doctrine of priestly celibacy: “forbidding to marry”. But Rome refuses to admit this. When *Vatican News* asked the cardinal, Stella, “How would you respond to those who maintain that the presence of children of priests is an argument for the introduction of optional celibacy for priests in the Latin church?” he replied: “The fact that some priests have experienced relationships and have brought children into the world does not affect the theme of priestly celibacy, which represents a precious gift for the Latin church, the ever-present value of which has been expressed by the recent popes, from St Paul VI to Pope Francis. Similarly, cases of abandonment of the matrimonial union and from the children do not take away from the ever-present value of Christian marriage.”

Firstly, compulsory priestly celibacy is specifically branded as a “*doctrine of devils*” by Paul the apostle in 1 Tim. 4:1-3. For the Papal system, then, to call it “a precious gift for the Latin church” is to blatantly contradict the divinely inspired words of Scripture itself. Who are we to believe, God the Holy Spirit (who “*speaketh expressly*” on this matter, 1 Tim. 4:1) or the popes of Rome?

Secondly, if it is such a “precious gift”, why is it only a supposed gift for “the Latin church”? Bible Christians can answer this, of course: the so-called “Latin church” (Roman Catholicism) is not a true Christian church at all. But in this ecumenical age, when Rome is doing its best to unite all “churches” to itself in one big, happy family with “papa” ruling over all, to argue that celibacy is a “precious gift”, and yet in the same breath to say that it is only for the “Latin church”, is really lame. If it was really from the Lord, such a gift would be right for *everyone*!

Thirdly, the cardinal lied when he said that “*some* priests have experienced relationships and have brought children into the world”. The number is not small, it is *huge*. In some countries it is as high as 80%; in others it is not much lower.<sup>8</sup>

Fourthly, the argument that, “Similarly, cases of abandonment of the matrimonial union and from the children do not take away from the ever-present value of Christian marriage”, is not a valid argument, since these are not similar. Yes, some men abandon their wives and children, but this does not alter the value of marriage. To make a comparison between that, and men breaking their vow of celibacy, is to compare apples with oranges. *Voluntary* marriage is ordained of God (1 Cor. 7:7-9,27-28,36), as is *voluntary* celibacy (Matt. 19:10-12; 1 Cor. 7:7); but *compulsory* celibacy is not – it is a doctrine of devils (1 Tim. 4:1-3). Furthermore, the Bible says that one purpose of marriage is to avoid fornication (1 Cor. 7:2,9); but no such purpose, nor any purpose at all in fact, is ever attached in Scripture to enforced celibacy. Also, true ministers of the Gospel are free to marry if they wish, and Peter was one of them (1 Cor. 9:4,5); but Rome’s priests are never free to marry, even though they (falsely) claim Peter as their first pope!

When husbands abandon their marriages, they sin against the commandment of God; but when Romish priests abandon enforced celibacy, they abandon a devil-inspired, man-enforced commandment. Their sin lies not in abandoning priestly celibacy, but in fathering children out of wedlock. They should indeed abandon the concept of enforced celibacy, but they should then enter into legitimate wedlock before fathering children.

What a devilish religion this is, which calls men “fathers” contrary to Scripture (Matt. 23:9), yet forbids them from becoming legitimate fathers in accordance with Scripture!

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### For further reading:

*The Next Great Priestly Scandal: Priests who Have Fathered Illegitimate Children*, by Shaun Willcock. Bible Based Ministries, 2019. Available freely on our website:

<https://www.biblebasedministries.co.uk/2019/06/22/the-next-great-priestly-scandal-priests-who-have-fathered-illegitimate-children/>

### ENDNOTES:

1. *The Next Great Priestly Scandal: Priests who Have Fathered Illegitimate Children*, by Shaun Willcock. Bible Based Ministries, 2019. [www.biblebasedministries.co.uk/2019/06/22/the-next-great-priestly-scandal-priests-who-have-fathered-illegitimate-children/](http://www.biblebasedministries.co.uk/2019/06/22/the-next-great-priestly-scandal-priests-who-have-fathered-illegitimate-children/)
2. *Zenit.org*, February 28, 2019. “Priests who Father a Child Must Put the Child First.”
3. *The Christian Post*, February 21, 2019. “‘There Are Kids Everywhere’; Vatican Confirms Church Guidelines for Priests who Father Children.” [www.christianpost.com](http://www.christianpost.com).
4. *The Christian Post*, February 21, 2019.
5. *Church Militant*, April 25, 2023. “Rome Buries UN Reports on Secret Children of Priests.” [ChurchMilitant.com](http://ChurchMilitant.com).
6. *Church Militant*, April 25, 2023.
7. *Church Militant*, April 25, 2023.
8. *Church Militant*, April 25, 2023.