

Fr. Perozich comments —

Some of the strongest supporters for moral upheaval in the church, a change from what Jesus teaches to what the world teaches, come from religious orders.

They live together as a protected family, completely taken care of by the order out of touch with the need to work to make a living.

When one member suffers from an iniquity such as homosexuality or promotes socialism under the guise of “social justice” which so many orders seem to do, the others rally around to protect the member without challenge, rather to coddle that person in the fantasy.

When I was discerning a vocation to priesthood, I ran from these orders wherein I experienced these tendencies. I knew that my calling was not to live this way with these folks.

Below is a quote which shows how this develops and how it spills over into the church at large. It can also happen in dioceses where a bishop is not decisive in favor of the church, but rather in favor of the “flavor.”

“[They] blamed “the strong sense of family” that their communities fostered for having blinded them to the warning signs.

“It resulted in a misplaced loyalty, errors in judgment, slowness to act, denial and at times, cover-up,”

I have shared my experience of this for years, and now am pleased to get the admission from the orders themselves as to why they promote their ideas over the truths of the faith. I am sorry that it took child abuse to expose the dynamic. Dare I hope that they can correct it in all of their members such as Fr. James Martin with the Jesuits and Fr. Thomas Rosica of the Basilians, and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious?

Hope springs eternal.

Religious orders apologize for sex abuse inaction, cover-ups

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Catholic religious orders around the world apologized Tuesday for having failed to respond when their priests raped children, acknowledging that their family-like communities blinded them to sexual abuse and led to misplaced loyalties, denial and cover-ups.

The two umbrella organizations representing the world's religious orders issued a joint statement ahead of Pope Francis' sex abuse prevention summit, which opens Thursday. They vowed to implement accountability measures to ensure that cover-ups by religious superiors end and that children are always safe in the presence of clergy.

With a few exceptions, religious orders have largely flown under the radar in the decades-long scandal, since the focus has been on how diocesan bishops protected their priests and moved them from parish to parish where they were free to abuse again.

Yet congregations such as the Jesuits, Salesians and Christian Brothers have some of the worst records, since they too moved abusers around and had easy access to young victims, since many orders specialize in running schools.

The Union of Superiors General represents the leadership of male religious orders, which count around

133,000 priests globally. The female branch, the International Union of Superiors General, represents some 500,000 religious sisters. They will each send around a dozen representatives to the Vatican sex abuse summit.

In the statement, the groups said they were ashamed at how they had failed the most vulnerable they were meant to serve and blamed "the strong sense of family" that their communities fostered for having blinded them to the warning signs.

"It resulted in a misplaced loyalty, errors in judgment, slowness to act, denial and at times, cover-up," they said. "We still need conversion and we want to change. We want to act with humility. We want to see our blind spots. We want to name any abuse of power."

To that end, the statement also condemned recent revelations of priests and bishops who sexually abused seminarians and nuns — an abuse of power that has largely gone unpunished since the victims are adults.

While noting the pope's summit is focused on the protection of minors, the groups pledged to find a response.

"This is a matter of grave and shocking concern," they said.