

99.98% OF PRIESTS ARE INNOCENT

Recently the findings of the 2011 Annual Report on priestly sexual abuse were released by the bishops' conference and the headlines should have read, "Abuse Problem Near Zero Among Priests." That was not the case.

According to the 2011 *Official Catholic Directory*, there are 40,271 priests in the U.S. The report says there were 23 credible accusations of the sexual abuse of a minor made against priests for incidences last year. Of that number, 9 were deemed credible by law enforcement. Which means that 99.98% of priests nationwide had no such accusation made against them last year. *Nowhere was this reported.*

Here are more data from the report that didn't appear elsewhere: almost all the offenses involve homosexuality. Indeed, 16% of the credible allegations made against priests who work in dioceses or eparchies, and 6% of religious order priests, involved pedophilia. In the former category, 82% of the alleged victims were male; in the latter, the figure is 94%. In other words, we are not talking about kids as victims, and we are not talking about females: we are talking about postpubescent males who were allegedly violated by adult males. That's called homosexuality.

When did these alleged offenses take place? Overall, 68% took place between 1960 and 1984; 1975-1979 being the most common period (among religious order priests, 33% took place before 1960, and another 40% took place between 1960-1980). In 75% of all the cases, the accused priest is either dead or has been dismissed.

Since more than 10% of the *credible* allegations were found to be false or unsubstantiated, it makes one wonder how many of

the total number of accusations are bogus. The bishops should commission a study of those priests whose reputations have been ruined by cash-hungry liars and their lawyers; the looters should also be studied. We would be happy to make a generous donation.