

KANSAS CITY STAR TARGETS BISHOP FINN AGAIN

Recently, a judge agreed with the finding of an arbitrator that Kansas City-St. Joseph Bishop Robert Finn violated a 2008 agreement mandating that suspected child abuse be reported immediately to the authorities. The *Kansas City Star* said it is “still waiting for the bishop and the Catholic Diocese to do the right thing,” by which it meant he should resign. The *Star* has been waiting for a long time: this is its sixth call for Finn’s resignation in three years. They must be slow learners—few seem to care what it said.

Here are fast facts that the *Star* doesn’t want to emphasize:

- In 2010 a computer technician finds disturbing crotch-shot photos of girls fully clothed on the computer of a priest; there was one naked photo of a non-sexual nature
- A police officer and an attorney are contacted by diocesan officials
- After the priest attempts suicide, he is sent for psychiatric analysis: it is determined that he is depressed, but he is not a pedophile
- When it is learned that restrictions placed on the priest are violated, the diocese contacts the authorities—even though it had no legal mandate to do so
- Bishop Finn orders an independent investigation of this matter even though there is no complainant
- Porn pictures are later found and Bishop Finn is then found guilty of one misdemeanor for not reporting suspected child abuse

The *Star* doesn’t want the facts to come out: In 2011, it

turned down \$25,000 for a full-page ad Bill Donohue had written exposing all the players involved in their well-coordinated war on Bishop Finn, including the role played by the *Star*.

The *Star's* impotence is a function of its misplaced authority: it has no legitimate perch upon which to tell Catholics who their bishop should be. Furthermore, its relentless attacks on Bishop Finn show a maniacal fixation that speaks more about its own problems than any alleged problems Finn has.

As we indicated in the last issue of *Catalyst*, the quest for a bishop's scalp is particularly evident in the Mid-West. That's the home of the *National Catholic Reporter*, attorney Jeffrey Anderson, and SNAP, the professional victims' group. The *Star*, as we pointed out, has also played a prominent role in this sordid exercise.