

NEW YORK TIMES CONTINUES ITS AGENDA

There is no media outlet more obsessed with old stories about sexual abuse in the Church than the *New York Times*. In a recent front-page story, complete with a color photo, there was a story on William Cardinal Levada, former archbishop of San Francisco and current head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. One might expect a front-page story to contain something dramatic, but there was nothing there: just a rehash of old stories.

The headline said more about the *Times* than Levada. It read, "Cardinal Has a Mixed Record on Abuse Cases." Front-page stories, of course, typically deal with current events, exceptions being new revelations about important historical events. But neither was the case with Levada. To learn that a leader has a "mixed record" extending back a quarter century is not exactly news. That's why it reads like an agenda.

Here's the story. When Levada was an archbishop, he learned that some homosexual priests molested post-pubescent males. Of course, the *Times* refused to use the term homosexual, but it is obvious from reading the story that the victims were not children. Then Levada did what *nearly all leaders did at the time—and many still do*—he sent the abuser to therapy. As usual, it didn't work.

We are still waiting for the *Times* to do similar stories on the clergy from other religions, as well as school superintendents. But we won't hold our breath.