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Oakland Tribune Viewpoint: Crisis in Catholic Church apparent in

By Tim Stier Contra Costa Times © Copyright 2011, Bay Area News Group

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AS A Catholic priest in voluntary exile from the Diocese of Oakland since March 15, 2005, I decided a year ago to stand in public solidarity with those bein outside Christ the Light Cathedral in Oakland with a sign that reads: "Structural reform now! Include the Excluded: Women, Abuse Survivors, Gay Person

One recent Sunday a young man approached, read my sign and said to me: "I have a better wording for your sign: (explitive) the pope." Another passerby not just shut it down?"

It's hard to hear such extreme criticism of the church I love, but in light of what I know, it is justified. The recent grand jury report out of Philadelphia resu 24 more makes clear that the unspeakable crimes against children and youth and their cover-up by bishops continue unabated.

Philadelphia is not atypical; it just happens to have a courageous district attorney (a practicing Catholic no less). The Catholic Church is in a state of collar elitism and denial.



When I listen to Catholic bishops of late, I find myself wondering what planet these men inhabit. The curre Cordileone, is obsessed with saving California from what he sees as the grave threat of gay marriage. He us cathedrals should not throw stones. For Bishop Cordileone or any bishop to pontificate on any topic remot

- The Oakland Diocese has lawsuits pending against at least two of its former priests for sexual abuse of minors.
- · Within the last five years, the Diocese/people in the pews have paid out more than \$60 million to abuse survivo
- · Research shows that half of Catholic bishops and priests are not practicing celibacy at any given time.
- · A high percentage of priests in the Oakland Diocese are closeted gay men while the Diocese publicly endorses the called Courage.
- Not one of the 66 percent of U.S. bishops who covered up and secretly reassigned known abuser priests has yet to be held accountable either by the church or by ci
- The rush to canonize Pope John Paul II as a saint without taking time to evaluate his handling of the clergy sex abuse crisis and cover-up makes a mockery of the p
- · Were it not for immigrants, the Diocese would be in a state of complete collapse for lack of interest.
- The Diocese broke its promise to not ask parishioners to help pay the huge bill on the Cathedral.

Bishop Cordileone would be better off listening to abuse survivors and others decimated by a structure of authority that is secretive, autocratic and danger

The arrest last month of Msgr. William J. Lynn, secretary for clergy from 1992 to 2004 in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, who, according to grand jury fil watershed moment in efforts to hold Catholic officials accountable for their crimes against children and youth.

Please join me and others on Sunday, April 10 outside the Cathedral in Oakland from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the first anniversary of this weekly protein leadership's denial and criminality.

Tim Stier is a Catholic priest in voluntary exile and is a resident of Oakland.

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