

A global look at the Catholic Church's sex abuse problem

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis' high-stakes sex abuse prevention summit is meant to call attention to the crisis as a global problem that requires a global response.

His decision was sparked by the realization that in many parts of the world, bishops and religious superiors continue to deny or play down the severity of the scandal and protect their priests and the reputation of the church at all costs.

Much of the developing world has largely escaped a public explosion of the scandal, as have conflict zones and countries where Catholics are a minority.

But even majority Catholic countries have lagged. Just this week, the online resource BishopAccountability listed Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines, Congo and a handful of other heavily Catholic countries as places where the church leadership has failed to respond adequately when priests rape and molest children.

Some countries where the scandal has played out visibly in recent years:

ARGENTINA

Francis' home country is beginning to see an eruption of the scandal, with some cases even implicating the pontiff himself.

As Cardinal Jorge Mario



This Jan. 16, 2019, file photo, shows Oran City, Argentina. Pope Francis' high-stakes sex abuse prevention summit is meant to call attention to the crisis as a global problem that requires a global response.

Bergoglio, Francis played a decisive and divisive role in Argentina's most famous abuse case, commissioning a four-volume, 2,000-plus page forensic study of the legal case against a convicted priest that concluded he was innocent, that his victims were lying and that the case never should have gone to trial.

Despite the study, Argentina's Supreme Court in 2017 upheld the conviction and 15-year prison sentence for the Rev. Giulio Grassi, a celebrity priest who ran homes for street children across Argentina.

More recently, an Argentine bishop close to Francis,

Bishop Gustavo Zanchetta, was placed under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct. Francis had brought Zanchetta to the Vatican and given him a high-ranking job after he resigned suddenly from his post in 2017. The Vatican insists no allegation of sexual abuse was lodged until last year, but local church officials said they raised the alarm about inappropriate behavior in 2015.

CHILE

Francis discovered firsthand just how pervasive clerical sex abuse is — and how effectively it has been covered up by the Catho-

lic hierarchy — when in January 2018 he branded as “calumny” accusations of cover-up against a Chilean bishop he had strongly defended.

After realizing his error, Francis did an about-face: He ordered a Vatican investigation, apologized in person to the victims he had discredited, and strong-armed the entire Chilean hierarchy to tender their resignations.

It wasn't enough. Chilean criminal prosecutors have staged a series of raids on the church's secret archives to seize documents. They have opened more than 100 investigations into abusive priests and have questioned

the current and former archbishops of Santiago about allegations they covered up the crimes.

GERMANY

In September, the German Catholic Church released a devastating report that concluded at least 3,677 people were abused by clergy between 1946 and 2014.

More than half the victims were 13 or younger and most were boys. Every sixth case involved rape and at least 1,670 clergy were involved. Some 969 abuse victims were altar boys.

While the report was an effort at transparency, the researchers who compiled it complained they didn't have access to original files, and said there was evidence that some files were manipulated or destroyed.

UNITED STATES

After the abuse scandal erupted in Boston in 2002, U.S. bishops adopted the toughest anti-abuse norms in the Catholic Church, a “one strike and you're out” policy that removes any priest from ministry if he commits a single act of abuse that is admitted to or established.

The norms require dioceses to report allegations to police and have a lay-led review board to receive and assess claims.

The U.S. scandal was revived in June with revelations that one of the car-

dinals who drafted the 2002 policy, the retired archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, himself had been accused of molesting at least two minors as well as adult seminarians.

Just last week, Francis defrocked McCarrick after a Vatican tribunal found him guilty of misconduct with minors, adults and soliciting sex during confession. He hasn't commented on his conviction.

The scandal exploded anew in August with the Pennsylvania grand jury report finding some 300 priests sexually abused at least 1,000 children in six dioceses since the 1940s. Since then, prosecutors in more than a dozen U.S. states have announced similar investigations.

VATICAN CITY

While only a few hundred people live in the world's tiniest sovereign state, Vatican City's criminal jurisdiction covers the Holy See's global diplomatic corps, and two priestly diplomats have faced trial in recent years.

In 2018, the Vatican tribunal convicted Monsignor Carlo Capella of possession and distribution of child pornography and sentenced him to five years in prison. Capella admitted to viewing the images during a period of “fragility” and interior crisis sparked by his job transfer to the Vatican Embassy in Washington.

Presbyterians plan Mardi Gras pancake supper

PENDLETON — A pancake supper, celebrating Fat Tuesday leading into Lent, is planned by the First Presbyterian Church March 5 from 5-7 p.m. in the Rogers Room, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave.

In addition to a supper featuring pancakes, sausage, fruit, beverage and cookie, attendees are invited to make their own Mardi Gras masks and participate in a basket raffle.

Cost to attend is \$7.50 for adults (3 pancakes), \$6 for seniors 55 and older (2 pancakes), \$4 for children ages 6-12 (2 pancakes), and free for ages 5 and under (1 pancake). Proceeds will benefit upgrades in the preschool

FAITH BRIEFS

and summer day camp.

Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, which is the 40-day period of preparation for Easter. Lent is a time of self-examination and self-discipline, and in olden days was a time of fasting and avoiding eggs, meat, milk and rich buttery dishes. What better way to remove temptation than to make pancakes? The most famous Mardi Gras celebration takes place each year in New Orleans, La.

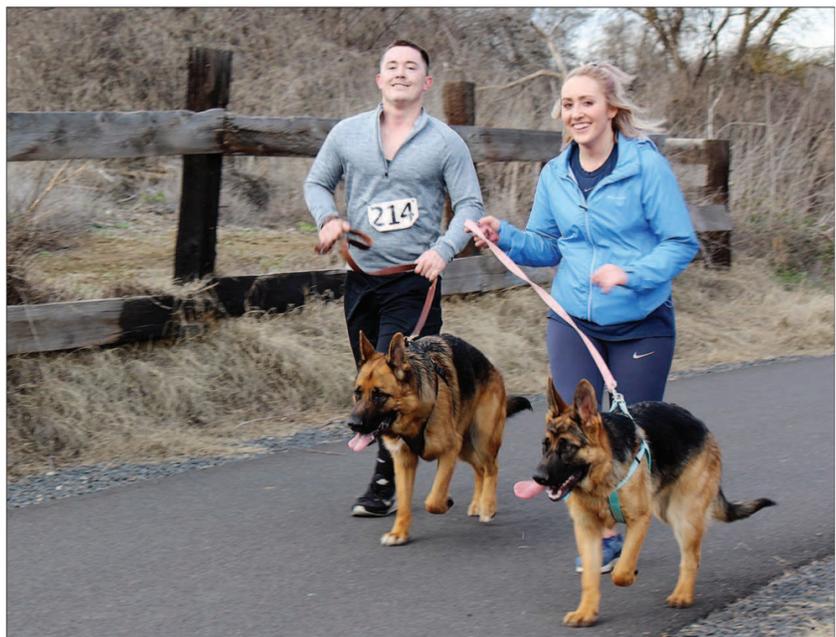
Diaper Dash races toward fifth year

HERMISTON — A 5K and 10K walk/run has helped distribute more than 45,000 diapers to area parents and agencies in need.

Coordinated by Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, the fifth annual Diaper Dash is Saturday, March 2 at 9 a.m. Registration and check-in begins at 8 a.m. The event starts and ends at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The route includes Riverfront Park and along the Oxbow Trail. The entry fee is a package or box of diapers.

The 2018 event included 182 participants with more than 11,000 diapers donated. Office manager Gabrielle Fritz said organizers are hoping for an even bigger turnout and have set a goal of 15,000 diapers.

People can register in advance at www.hermistonnazarene.org. For questions, contact Fritz at 541-567-3677 or hermiston-naz@gmail.com.



Bobby and Emily Adams of Hermiston participate in the 2018 Diaper Dash. This year's event, which collects diapers to be distributed to those in need, is March 2 at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

Worship Community

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 Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
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 210 NW 9th, Pendleton
 Join us Sundays

10:00 am Sunday Worship
 11am Fellowship & Adult Class
 9am Sunday School

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First United Methodist Church Pendleton

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Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616
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Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

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Pastor Sharon Miller
 541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
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1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC

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Pastor Michael Smith
 420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
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BAHA'I FAITH IN PENDLETON

"See ye no strangers, rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness."
 — Abdu'l Baha

Please visit with us at **The Baha'i Center:**
 1015 SE Court Place

Everyone invited!
 Sunday Devotions @ 11:00am
 Everyday Devotions, 11am - 1pm
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(541) 276-9360 or visit us at www.pendletonbahais.com
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Community Presbyterian Church
 14 Martin Drive,
 Umatilla, OR
 922-3250

Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30