

The Vatican has no credibility in the international arena - in a recent piece in Commonweal, David Gibson of Fordham wrote that it was clear that McCarrick was recognized by the FBI, the KGB, and the Vatican as a natural for either the clerical culture of the Vatican - or international spycraft. That's repulsive - when was the last time you heard the words, "KGB agent" and "pastoral" in the same sentence? It's also personally nauseating - yes - it makes me physically and emotionally ill that I was raped because JP II thought McCarrick was such a sufficient ally in the fight against Communism that dozens of reports of misconduct were overlooked.

We must meet the challenge of a principle which, if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world - that challenge is acknowledging that the Holy See - the corporate entity of the Vatican City State, is a rogue nation that has enjoyed a seat at the family of nations table while tolerating, covering, and committing acts of child abuse so hostile it is impossible to even think about them collectively and clearly.

It boils down, quite simply, to this - in the 1980s, anything anti-Communist was all the rage - because of his ability to work in spycraft - not statecraft - McCarrick became one of the most powerful men of the era. Because John Paul II was obsessed with bringing down Communism in Poland and McCarrick could bring the new world to the aid of the old through conservative Catholics in the Reagan Administration - children and seminarians were raped, pure and simple.

A Papal apology is all but insufficient - the following three things must happen: the priestly fraternity must be shattered, voluntarily or not. Until the Holy See is compliant with the UN Charter on the Protection of Children, they must be suspended from the UN, and the Sainthood of John Paul II must be placed under review by outside experts. The Vatican has chosen to be a rogue nation - and so must be treated as one.

I will never fully recover from what McCarrick did to me - neither will other victims. I, like every person abused by a priest, am forever broken - there is no full recovery in this matter. Mine is one tragedy among far too many - for too long, the Holy See has deflected responsibility for its priests, calling them contractors. They are paid by the Church, they are assigned by the Church - they are employees - the Holy See, and all its enablers at home and abroad must now be held to fullest account. Every document, every named related to every conspiracy must be released. The Government of this country and the family of nations owe it to the children of the world. Now that the report is done, a thorough examination of the canonically inappropriate relationship that previously existed between Steve Bannon and Cardinal Burke creating "warriors" for Catholicism must occur, before this overt prohibited action results in another spycraft professional cleric and the rise of "Ted II."