

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS P. DOYLE, M.A., M. CH.A., J.C.D, C.A.D.C.

Before the

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD  
SEXUAL ABUSE

*SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS*

Panel 2: Structure, Governance and Culture

- Two dimensions of the issue: the actual sexual violation of a minor or vulnerable person, and, the response of the institutional church
- The abusers: Why have they abused? What is unique about abusers among the Catholic clergy?
- The institutional response: the primary cause of scandal
- Factors of causality: the influence of the understanding of “institutional church;” the perceptions of the priesthood; the traditional teaching on human sexuality; inadequate notion of pastoral care
- Historical reality of sexual misconduct by clerics and the consistency of institutional responses
- The contemporary response to sexual abuse: “who’s in charge?”
- The behavior of governmental structures and power within a hierarchical-monarchical model of government
- Volatile nature of the Church’s response: key question – who is the Church?
- Clericalism and the clerical culture: protecting the problem’s roots
- Clericalism: a barrier to a realistic response and to comprehensive healing