Unholy Uproar

**Question:**
In your opinion, are the recent cases in which priests have been accused of sexually abusing children isolated cases or are they part of a pattern of abuse?

- Isolated cases: 38%
- Part of a pattern of abuse: 50%
- Not sure: 12%

Source: Survey by Harris/Time/CNN, March 13-14, 2002.

**Question:**
If a priest is accused of sexually abusing a child, do you think church officials should or should not report that information to the police? [If yes] Should the church be required by law to do that, or should it be up to the church to decide?

- Should report, required by law: 80%
- Should report, up to church to decide: 15%
- Should report, no further opinion: 2%
- Should not report: 2%


**Question:**
If it turns out that some Catholic bishops knew that priests had been sexually abusing children and relocated them to other churches, rather than reporting them to the authorities, do you think those bishops should step down from their positions or don’t you think so?

- Yes, should step down: 88%
- No, should not step down: 9%
- Not sure: 3%

Source: Survey by Harris/Time/CNN, March 13-14, 2002.

**Question:**
Has the issue of sexual abuse of children by priests hurt the overall reputation of the Catholic Church in your eyes, or not?

- Has not hurt reputation: 69%
- Has hurt reputation: 29%
- No opinion: 2%


**Question:**
In your opinion, how much of a problem is the issue of sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests—would you say it’s a major problem that demands immediate attention, a less immediate problem or not much of a problem at all?

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**Question:**
Based on what you have heard, how would you evaluate the Catholic Church’s handling of these cases of alleged sexual abuse by priests? … Have church leaders mostly tried to cover up the problem, or have they mostly tried to deal with the problem?

- Church leaders have tried to deal with the problem: 26%
- Church leaders have tried to cover up the problem: 62%
- Don’t know/Refused: 9%
- Both (vol.): 3%


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Congregation in Distress

**Question:**
How much do you trust your own parish priest around children—do you trust him completely, a good amount, somewhat, or not much?

- **Completely:** 60%
- **Good amount:** 19%
- **Somewhat:** 9%
- **Not much:** 9%
- **Don't know priest (vol.)/No opinion:** 9%

Note: Asked of Catholics.

**Question:**
If a priest was known to have sexually abused young people but had undergone rehabilitation, would you be willing to accept him as your parish priest, or not?

- **1993:**
  - Yes, would be willing: 19%
  - No, would not be willing: 81%
- **2002:**
  - Yes, would be willing: 35%
  - No, would not be willing: 65%

A 1993 sex abuse scandal culminated in the filing of 187 lawsuits involving dozens of priests and the resignation in disgrace of the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M.

Note: Asked of Catholics.

**Question:**
Do you think the requirement that priests remain celibate increases the likelihood that they may sexually abuse young people, makes no difference, or decreases the likelihood that they may sexually abuse young people?

- ** Increases the likelihood:** 46%
- **Makes no difference:** 9%
- **Decreases the likelihood:** 40%
- **No opinion:** 5%

Note: Asked of Catholics.

**Question:**
If the Catholic Church were to change its policy and allow priests to marry, do you think it would reduce the problem of priests sexually abusing children and young people, or that it wouldn't make much difference in reducing this problem?

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**Question:**
Does the issue of sexual abuse of young people by priests make you less likely to... or not?

- **Yes, less likely**
  - Contribute money to the Church: 30%
  - Follow the Church's teachings on matters of faith and morals: 23%
  - Go to Mass: 22%

- **No, not less likely**
  - Contribute money to the Church: 70%
  - Follow the Church's teachings on matters of faith and morals: 74%
  - Go to Mass: 76%

Note: Asked of Catholics.

**Question:**
Has the issue of sexual abuse by priests caused you to rethink or re-examine your own personal faith, or not?

- **Yes:** 35%
- **No:** 21%
- **No opinion:** 44%

Note: Asked of Catholics.