

[PDF] Mortal Sins: Sex, Crime, And The Era Of Catholic Scandal

Michael D'Antonio - pdf download free book



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Description:

From *Starred Review* It all started in 1984, when, at either end of the Mississippi, parents of children molested by Catholic priests refused to settle for diocesan hush money. The church put Father Tom Doyle, then at the just-opened Vatican embassy in Washington, D.C., on the case of accused abuser Father Gilbert Gauthé in Louisiana, while, in Minnesota, Greg Lyman's parents were referred to attorney Jeffrey Anderson. A promising church diplomat and an up-and-coming legal star had found their life missions; Doyle's would twice derail his career in the church, and Anderson's

would compel him to develop a whole new field of litigation. Meanwhile, both had to battle ferociously with the alcohol they overconsumed to relax from discovering not just criminal priests but also institutional practices and attitudes of the church that facilitated clerical sex abusers. Doyle and Anderson are the two most prominent heroes of D'Antonio's superlatively readable overview of the ongoing, now-global crisis of priestly sex abuse. Others include journalist Jason Berry, who broke the Gauthier story; sociologist and former priest Richard Sipe; and activist and child-sex-abuse victim Barbara Blaine, who founded the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. Their stories as well as those of several victims and selected perps ensure that this landmark work of recent history remains gripping and affecting to the last word. --Ray Olson

Review

"Adds a new dimension to the story, concentrating on the arduous legal battle to bring the church to account. In this new telling, the heroes are not just the survivors of the abuse but also the lawyers and advocates who have gone to bat for them. This is perhaps the most comprehensive narrative of the abuse debacle to date, and D'Antonio ... had access to key players, as well as a trove of previously unseen church files and court documents. ... The story he tells - about the culture of secrecy inside one of the world's largest religious organizations - is damning."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"The definitive history of the Catholic Church's 'most severe crisis since the Reformation.'"

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"This landmark work of recent history remains gripping and affecting to the last word."

—*Booklist* (starred review)

"A devastating chronicle not only of sexual abuse but also of abuse of power — or, rather, of the inclination of those in power to avert their eyes from abuse."

—*The Boston Globe*

"Gripping.... Captures the drama, impact and reach of a 30-year-crisis that began before the Boston meltdown and continues today. ... A powerful and important work."

—*The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland)

"Nearly three decades of scandal, expertly exposed. ... The author weaves a captivating tale of legal drama set against the backdrop of an intransigent ecclesiastical hierarchy. The real-life characters of the story range from colorful to tragic; flamboyant lawyers, alcoholic clerics and activist abuse survivors all help make the story a true page-turner. ... In a readable manner, he has helped

document a watershed era in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. Riveting and fascinating—sure to serve future generations well as they look back on this era.”

—*Kirkus* (starred review)

“*Mortal Sins* will be the gold standard for unraveling what happened during the Catholic priests’ sex abuse scandal of the last three decades. D’Antonio’s balanced exposition and analysis is the equivalent of a cleansing shower on a disturbing period in church history that will reverberate for 100 years or more. ... *Mortal Sins* reads like a detective story.”

—*Buffalo News*

“Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Michael D’Antonio deserves another one. Another Pulitzer prize, that is, for his new book, *Mortal Sins*. ... Though non-fiction, it reads with the drama of a novel, or perhaps a detective story, and much of the tale is inspirational and surprising.”

—Huffington Post

“[A] sweeping account of the crisis, using his reporter's eye for factual detail to provide a comprehensive history spanning three decades.”

—*Ms.*

“An in-depth portrayal of the tragedy of the American church in the late 20th century.”

—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

“A tremendous addition to the fund of our understanding of this crisis. ... [*Mortal Sins*] is a searing and deeply engaging account of the contemporary battles that have been waged against the culture of secrecy and cover-up maintained by the Catholic hierarchy. The extraordinary quality of the writing makes this difficult story both readable and impossible to put down. ... *Mortal Sins* takes us past the shock, into the understanding that is the precursor to a society solving its most deep-seated problems. Please read this book for our children, and their children.”

—Justia.com

“If like me you’ve followed this story only glancingly and intermittently over the years, reading *Mortal Sins* - that is, discovering the full scale and scope and nature of the crimes and cover-ups - will be shocking. Its power is all the greater because Michael D’Antonio is such a scrupulous, lucid chronicler. This is clearly the definitive work on one of the most consequential and appalling stories of our time.”

—Kurt Andersen, bestselling author of *True Believer* and *Hey Day*, and host of Public Radio's *Studio 360*

"*Mortal Sins* is a powerful book that gives dimension to the story of the heroes who fought to uncover the clerical sex abuse crisis of the Catholic Church. While the shadow of these crimes against children are long, D'Antonio's story of the whistleblowers brings needed light into the darkness."

—Alex Gibney, Academy Award-winning director of *Taxi to the Dark Side*

"This is a valuable 'inside' story of the unraveling of the scandal, complete with fascinating original interviews of the main actors."

—Anson Shupe, author of *Rogue Clerics*, *Bad Pastors*, and *Spoils of the Kingdom*

"A well-researched and accurate account of one of the great scandals of our time - a crime against humanity, no less, to which the Vatican turns a blind eye. When his church cares more for its reputation and its wealth than it does for its children, did Jesus Christ live - and die - in vain?"

—Geoffrey Robertson, author of *The Case of the Pope*

"Skillfully weaving together the stories of the lawyers, journalists, clergy, and laity who worked to expose abusive priests and the superiors who covered up their crimes, Michael D'Antonio has created a vivid and compelling narrative of the greatest crisis in the Catholic Church since the Protestant Reformation."

—Mark Silk, editor of *Religion in the News* and author of *Spiritual Politics*

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