

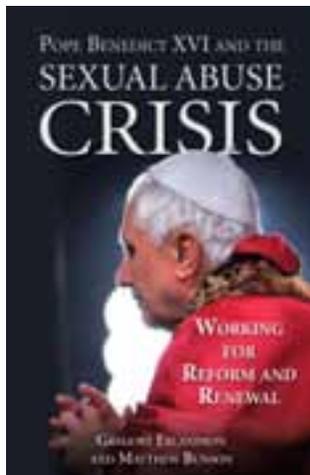
Our Sunday Visitor

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Pope Benedict's record speaks for itself in fight against clergy sexual abuse

HUNTINGTON, Indiana, May 18, 2010 – The latest accusations against Pope Benedict XVI regarding the clergy sexual abuse problem have left Catholics and others confused, disillusioned, and angry. Many, relying solely on secular media reports regarding the scandal, have rushed to hold the pope responsible for how bishops dealt with abusers in their dioceses, even to the point of calling for his resignation.

Gregory Erlandson, President of Our Sunday Visitor – one of the largest Catholic publishing houses in the world – was one of those frustrated with both sides of the communication divide. The secular media was only telling part of the story, but on the other hand, Catholic media was either too quiet or speaking in language easily misinterpreted by the general public. Either way, people were confused about the issue and didn't know what to believe.

“When the accusations intensified against the pope, I could no longer rely on other sources to define the crisis for me,” says Erlandson. “I made a commitment to follow the truth, no matter where it took me, to get to the real story.”

Pope Benedict XVI and the Sexual Abuse Crisis: Working for Reform and Renewal (Our Sunday Visitor, 208 pp), is co-authored by Erlandson and Our Sunday Visitor's **Catholic Almanac** editor, Matthew Bunson. It is the first critically objective and comprehensive book on the clergy sexual

abuse issue and more specifically, the pope's real response to victims, abusers, bishops, media, and billions worldwide.

- What is the pope doing to ease the victims' pain?
- How is he dealing with offenders?
- Who is being held accountable, and how, for past mistakes?
- What has been done to make sure it doesn't happen again since the crisis first came to light 8 years ago?

Though not meant to be an exhaustive study of the issue, **Pope Benedict XVI and the Sexual Abuse Crisis** gives the reader the truth about the pope. It reviews his past, his work as a priest and theologian, his ascent to heading the Vatican's office for Doctrine prior to becoming pope, what he knew and when, what he's doing to redress the problem, and how his top priorities include the pastoral care of the victims.

This book brings the issues back into focus. It creates a stronger balance between facts and theories and between actions and words to alleviate confusion and assumptions. It provides the first objective presentation of the full truth, no matter how challenging, as it outlines what is needed for real reform and renewal to take place.

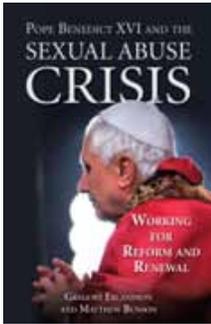
Additional information about the book, its authors, and a live daily blog is found at:

www.osv.com/abusecrisis

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Our Sunday Visitor serves millions of Catholics worldwide through its publishing, offertory, and communication services. Established in 1912 by a local parish priest, Our Sunday Visitor has grown into the nation's largest supplier of offering envelopes, parish and diocesan mailings, books, periodicals, curriculum, address management, and stewardship services. Our Sunday Visitor is a not-for-profit organization, returning a portion of net earnings back to the Catholic community through the Our Sunday Visitor Institute. For more information, visit www.osv.com

Product Fact Sheet



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Pope Benedict XVI and the Sexual Abuse Crisis: Working for Reform and Renewal

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor
Authors: Gregory Erlandson & Matthew Bunson
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Description:

Since 1985, the Catholic Church in the United States has been living in the shadow of the clerical sexual abuse crisis. In 2010, the scandal erupted in Ireland and spread across Europe. There is now a rush by some, both inside and outside the Church, to place direct blame upon Pope Benedict XVI.

There is no escaping the fact that Pope Benedict XVI, as the former head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and now as pope, has played a historically pivotal and personal role in the Vatican's response to the crisis.

Now, in the first critically objective and comprehensive assessment of his real response to victims, abusers, bishops, media, and the millions of Catholic followers worldwide, Erlandson and Bunson discover whether Pope Benedict was part of the problem or the solution.

Pope Benedict XVI and the Sexual Abuse Crisis reviews the pope's past, his work as a priest and theologian, his ascent to heading the Vatican's office for Doctrine prior to becoming pope, what he knew and when, what he's doing to redress the problem, and how his top priorities include the pastoral care of the victims.

Follow the truth – and let the pope's record speak for itself.

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Pope Benedict XVI and the Sexual Abuse Crisis: Working for Reform and Renewal

Author Interview Questions

For

Gregory Erlandson
and
Matthew Bunson

1. Why now? There has been a lot of coverage on this issue. What justified writing the book at this point?
2. Some are calling for the pope's resignation. Others are saying the changes he instituted are models for other organizations to follow. What is the truth?
3. What is the true scope of Pope Benedict's role in addressing the Sexual Abuse Crisis?
4. Why is this such a divisive and intensely personal issue for people – Catholics and non-Catholics alike?
5. Where has the confusion come from on this issue? Even Catholics are confused. Why doesn't the Church simply tell the truth and deal with the consequences?
6. What is the pope literally saying about the sexual abuse crisis – not only to the media, but to victims, bishops, priests, etc? And how does that translate to actions and policies and processes?
7. What does the future hold in regard to the sexual abuse crisis?

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About the Authors

Gregory Erlandson



Gregory Erlandson is the President and Publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, Publishing Division. He was appointed to this position in November 2000, by the Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. Our Sunday Visitor is one of the largest Catholic publishing companies in the world, distributing Catholic books, resources, periodicals, and curriculum nationally and internationally.

As president, Erlandson has doubled the size of the company with the recent acquisition of the curriculum company formerly known as Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Religion Publishing Division, currently based in Orlando, FL.

Prior to his tenure as Our Sunday Visitor's President and Publisher, Erlandson served as the company's Editor-in-Chief since 1992, and oversaw its book and periodical editorial departments and the design department. He was responsible for the editorial content of all of the company's periodicals, which include *Our Sunday Visitor* national newsweekly, the nation's largest national Catholic newsweekly. Erlandson joined Our Sunday Visitor in 1989 when he was appointed Editor of the national newsweekly. Under his editorship, the newsweekly was redesigned and won numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association.

He previously worked as a correspondent in the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service, where he covered the Vatican for the Washington-based Catholic wire service from 1986 to 1989. From 1982 until 1986, he worked as news editor for the *National Catholic Register*, a national Catholic weekly newspaper then based in Los Angeles. During his years in the Catholic press, he has won a variety of awards for his writing from the Catholic Press Association, including best general commentary, best news story, best editorial, best family column, and best interview.

Matthew Bunson, D.Min.



Recently named editor of Our Sunday Visitor's *The Catholic Answer* magazine, Dr. Bunson has been active in the area of Catholic Social Communications for over 20 years, including writing, editing, and lecturing on a variety of topics related to Church history, the papacy, and Catholic culture. A Senior Fellow of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, he is the author or co-author of over 35 books including: **The Encyclopedia of Catholic History, The Pope Encyclopedia, The Encyclopedia of Saints, John Paul II's Book of Saints, Papal Wisdom, All Shall Be Well, The Angelic Doctor, and The Life and World of St. Thomas Aquinas.** Bunson is also on the faculty of the Catholic Distance University in Virginia where he teaches courses and seminars on Western Civilization, Church History, and Catholic-Islamic Dialogue.

In 2005, he authored **We Have a Pope! Benedict XVI**, the first biography of Pope Benedict XVI in the English language. He is also the co-author of the upcoming **Encyclopedia of the American Catholic Church.** Since 1997, he has served as general editor of Our Sunday Visitor's **Catholic Almanac.**

During the 2005 papal interregnum and conclave, Bunson served as a special consultant to *USA Today* and has appeared as a guest on many television and radio programs, including MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, and Relevant Radio. Aside from his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation, Bunson holds a Bachelor's degree in history, an M.A. in theology, and a Master of Divinity degree. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies for a Ph.D. in church history.