



## **VOICE of the FAITHFUL**

### ***Finds Serious Flaw in John Jay Causes & Context Study***

Voice of the Faithful has found a serious flaw in the 2011 John Jay Report on the Causes and Context of clergy sexual abuse that was released earlier this year.

VOTF faults the report for failing to emphasize how much a clerical culture that hides, enables and minimizes the abuse substantially contributed to that abuse.

The John Jay Report described but did not name, VOTF found, an overriding set of beliefs and behaviors in which the clergy view themselves as different, separate and exempt from the norms, rules and consequences that apply to everyone else in society--the essence of a clerical culture or "clericalism."

VOTF also concluded that the John Jay Report's data and results demonstrated pervasive hierarchical behaviors that led to:

- 1.) denial or minimization of persistent evidence of clergy sexual abuse of minors;
- 2.) mismanagement of the corporate response to the evidence; and
- 3.) harmful treatment of victims, their families and the faith communities for which the bishops bore pastoral responsibility.

For VOTF's complete conclusions, [click here](#), for VOTF's news release about the conclusions, [click here](#), and for the full John Jay Report on the Causes and Context of the clergy sexual abuse scandal, [click here](#).