

Exposing the Myth:

Statute of Limitations Reform Is Not Anti-Catholic

- **Statute of Limitations Reform is About Children, Not the Church**

The fact of the matter is that as many as 70-80 percent of survivors of child sex abuse were abused by family or family friends/acquaintances. The Church actually makes up a relatively small portion of the victims of these horrific crimes. The lobbying of the Catholic hierarchy makes it sound, incorrectly, that they are the only institution affected.

- **Opening the Court to Allow Victims of Child Sexual Abuse to Seek Justice Will Not Destroy the Church**

One of the most frequently heard objections to statute of limitations reform is that it will cripple the ability of the church to perform good works in other areas. The Catholic hierarchy loudly complains that suspending the statute of limitations will have disastrous implications for the Church's finances and, consequently, its charitable and educational ministries.

Quite simply, the religious and charitable activities of the Church has not been "crippled" – as opponents to SOL reform contend – and will not be. For example, Catholic Charities gets approximately 80% of their funding from state and federal sources; there is no indication that these sources of funding are going to shut down. Moreover, the Church owns billions of dollars of property not used for religious purposes. The argument that the religious mission of the Church and their ability to serve their parishioners does not hold water.

Finally, the Church isn't the exclusive fund of settlement money or damages. In the settlements on the west coast of the U.S., approximately fifty (50) percent of the settlement came from insurance.

- **In Short, SOL Reform is Not Directed Against the Catholic Church and Will Certainly Not Bankrupt It.**