

Question: Do some priests use magical-religious imagery in the seduction of minors? For example: telling the boy of the supposed miraculous qualities of his seminal fluid.

Answer: Yes, this is common in the reports of abuse victims. The whole process is constructed by the perpetrator as good and part of “specialness and love” within religion.

Dear Stefano:

Thank you for your kind and intelligent inquiry about the religious and magical imagery clergy use in the process of abusing minors: I have many examples: one priest anointed the foreheads of his victims with his semen. Another took what he said was a consecrated host and touched the gentles of his 13-year-old girl victim saying, “I will show you how much God loves you.”

Fr. Ray Boland, who later became bishop of Kansas City-St Joseph, while he was a pastor in Washington D.C. when he was sodomizing a 12-year-old boy he told him that he now had the “seed of God” within him. He also said the boy was special and “God made certain boys and girls for the pleasure of priests”.

This kind of magical thinking and sexualizing of religion can be traced partly to Vatican thinking about sex and the sacraments (especially John Paul II). Cf. the 1993 Vatican Conference on Celibacy where Vatican spokesmen (Card. Francis Stafford) equated the priest saying mass with sexual union. RC thinking and theology of sexuality is not only deficient, but to my mind it is heretical.

Coraggio,
Richard Sipe