

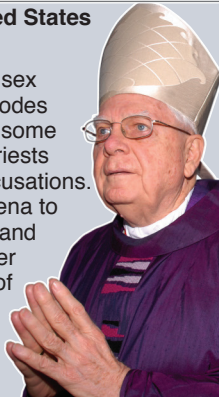
# Abuse allegations engulf Catholic church

The Vatican has angrily attacked international news media over its reporting of the worldwide sexual abuse of children by priests, saying there is an “ignoble attempt” to smear Pope Benedict “at any cost”



## United States

■ **2002:** Church sex abuse crisis explodes across U.S. with some 1,200 Catholic priests facing abuse accusations. Following subpoena to appear before grand jury, church leader and Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal **Bernard Law**, resigns and moves to Rome



■ **Feb 2004:** U.S. **Conference of Catholic Bishops** begins collecting data on child sexual abuse allegations. **By 2009, U.S dioceses and their insurers pay more than \$2.7 billion in settlements to cases dating as far back as the 1940s**



■ **2010:** Allegations emerge that Cardinal **Joseph Ratzinger** – the future **Pope Benedict XVI** – as head of Vatican’s doctrinal watchdog chose not to discipline Father **Lawrence Murphy** (*inset*), accused of molesting as many as 200 deaf children in Wisconsin between 1950 and 1974



## Italy

■ **2010:** Vatican belatedly begins investigation into sexual abuse of 67 deaf children by 24 priests in Verona from 1950s-80s



## Ireland

■ **Feb 2010:** Pope Benedict holds crisis talks with 24 Irish bishops at Vatican. Four bishops offer their resignations – the pope has so far accepted one resignation, that of Bishop **John Magee** of Cloyne (*above*). Move follows 2009 reports by **Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse** and the **Murphy report** – which allege that priests beat and raped children and that the church covered up decades of abuse



## Germany

■ **Mar 2010:** Head of German Bishops Conference, Archbishop **Robert Zollitsch**, apologizes for church sex abuse cover-up in Freiburg diocese 20 years ago



## Mexico, Australia

■ **2006:** Pope Benedict (*below*) removes founder of Mexico’s Legion of Christ movement, Father **Marcial Maciel**, after he is discovered to be sexual molester.

**2008:** Benedict apologizes to Australians following over 100 convictions of Catholic priests for sexual abuse of children

