



I read this book (February 2024) – among others – while on a delightful SCUBA-infused vacation of a fortnight plus. One of my main goals for selecting this text was to see if Jenkins would address the issue that is at fault, at cause, and at the heart of the documented abuse that Priests in the Roman Catholic (RC) Church inflicted on (mostly) underage boys.

I was very disappointed with the entire enterprise and therefore with the end result, because Jenkins failed to identify the root cause of the events...and this by way of the brazen and deeply offensive self-proclaimed role and identity of the RC Church. While the sexual activity of RC Priests is discussed, what Jenkins never comes to terms with why this happened in the first place. Speaking autobiographically (i.e., as a human being, a man, a sexual creature with the very same desires and inclinations), I appreciate urges, desires and the like. I however do not present myself to you (or anyone) as a “special” person, let alone as the viceroy of the divine.

This is precisely how the RC Church has presented itself for millennia. Their choice, not mine. Given that “special status” then how is it that these activities can take place within those extremely exclusive (and apparently divinely sanctioned) parameters? Jenkins receives a resolute failing grade in this sin of omission (or perhaps, if I were even more cynical, this sin of commission). If the RC Church is going to insist that their status is unique on planet earth – and insist they do – then their members (pun intended) must be as unique as those claims. They are not. They (i.e., the RC Church) fail. They fail because the entire organization from bottom to top (yes, Pope, you are included) are filled with men. Men no more special than anyone else on planet earth, and men susceptible to sexual temptation and proclivities. The RC Church can’t have it both ways. You cannot inform the world that you have the most special status ever afforded a human being and its construct (i.e., viceroys of the divine in the form of the RC Church) on the one hand. This cannot then – on the other hand – be the repository of pedophiles which it has been and continues to be, because it is filled with men. Sexually predisposed men.

The (non-proverbial) elephant in the room is not the fact that men were and are engaging in acts of homosexuality and pederast-related activities with young boys. That is as timeless as time. The existential problem that forms the foundation of the abuse of boys within the RC Church is the nonsensical position of the RC Church.

First of all, the RC Church only “addressed” the issue after they were exposed. There is therefore no integrity whatsoever in an organization that claims to have divinely-appointed status when action is taken only after nearly two millennia and on the heels of having been caught and disciplined in the public arena. In other words, had the abused not come forward to inform the world of what had happened, then the RC Church would have continued – as it has for millennia – to say nothing about the actions of the men in its employ.

Secondly, the RC Church claims to have unique status on planet earth. The actions of these men completely refute any claim thereto and this goes all the way up the shit-stained ladder to the Pope himself. You are all men. Period. Stop pretending that you are any more than that.

Thirdly. The history of the RC Church provides countless examples of the role that women played over the course of centuries when “men” (as viceroys of the divine) could not be found and who were not willing to further the work of the divine in less-than-desirable geographical locales. In English: absent those men, women – representing the RC Church – did absolutely everything that RC Priests alone were sanctioned to provide: baptism, confirmation, weddings, last rites, funerals (you get the idea). Notwithstanding the nonsense of the Pope’s *ex cathedra* announcement (as recently as published in the 20th Century) that women cannot be ordained to the role of Priest, women have been performing all of the actions of a Priest for centuries.

These women were performing all the tasks of a Priest over centuries because of the remote locations that were not attractive enough for the men to bless with their presence. The role of these women was being carried out behind the scenes where no one saw what was happening.

The only difference is that what the women in the RC Church were doing behind the scenes was decidedly less offensive than what the men in the RC Church were doing behind the scenes.

Still, the nonsense of the RC Church persists based on what men say.

At some point, the nonsense must be called out for what it is.

The proof of this nonsense was only recently exposed.

Its root cause has not been addressed.

Yet.