



## Shepherd's Corner

13 Feb 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Pope Benedict XVI is being cancelled. Evil forces in and out of the Church are trying to condemn and erase his memory, but don't take my word for it. \*

An 8,000-page report about abuse in the Archdiocese of Munich, recently published, accuses Joseph Ratzinger—archbishop from 1977-82—of 4 times mishandling abuse cases, without substantiation. In an 82-page reply, produced with legal assistance, the 94-year-old pope-emeritus flatly denied all 4 charges.

The biggest “controversy” was nothing more than a mistake. Was Ratzinger present in 1980 at a meeting on 15 January or not? The minutes of the meeting prove that he was. However, when a list of meetings was produced by Benedict’s lawyers, this meeting was omitted. Ha—they caught him in a lie! No, it was a simple mistake. His enemies use the devil’s playbook: accuse the innocent party of your own crimes.

That Munich meeting was important. Father X, an abuser from another diocese, was mentioned. His reputation, however, was not mentioned, and no decision was made about giving him an assignment. Therefore, no evidence exists to prove Benedict “reassigned an abuser priest.” (FYI: Munich is big; it currently has 747 parishes, which is only about 700 more than St. Catharines!)

Nonetheless, “Bishop Georg Bätzing, head of the German bishops’ conference, said last month he expected Benedict XVI to apologize for his handling of abuse cases.” Apologize for what, Bishop Bätzing?! What wrong has he done?—Crucifige, crucifige eum!

Benedict apologized nonetheless, not for his own egregious wrongdoing, but on behalf of the perpetrators. “Each individual case of sexual abuse is appalling and irreparable,” he said. “The victims of sexual abuse have my deepest sympathy, and I feel great sorrow for each individual case.”

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, the retired pope’s personal secretary, has protested: “[Ratzinger] was the first to act as a cardinal and then he continued the line of transparency as pope. . . . already, during the pontificate of John Paul II, he changed the current mentality and set the line that Pope Francis is continuing.”

This view is shared. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, wrote of Benedict’s “profound and very high moral and intellectual honesty.” He explained that “I never found in him any shadow or attempt to hide or minimize [a crime].”

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, has sobering claims: there is a movement out to destroy the retired pope’s life and work, and erase him from the official memory of the Church. “[This movement] has never loved him as an individual, his theology, his pontificate,” he said.

I, for one, have loved him, and thank God for him still. Also see the excellent commentary by Fr. Raymond de Souza in the N.C. Register on 9 Feb 2022.

Thank you for your material and spiritual support of the parish.

- Fr. Novakowsky, FSSP

\* All quotes from N.C.Register: “Archbishop Gänswein: Movement to Destroy Benedict XVI’s Life and Work,” by Edward Pentin, 10 Feb 2022.