

Radcliffe: misused power at root of crisis

Tom Roberts | Dec. 21, 2009 NCR Today

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, former master general of the Dominican Order, said the the clergy sex abuse scandal now rocking the church in Ireland, is more "[a crisis of clerical culture](#)" [1]than it is a crisis of sexual abuse.

Radcliffe made his remarks recently before a gathering of Dublin priests, according to a report in *The Irish Catholic*. He added: "[I]t is a crisis of a clerical culture, [a culture] which lifts us [the clergy] up in our high towers, a whole understanding of priesthood so often in terms of power."

Fr Radcliffe said: "Most priests are holy, humble, unpretentious people but this is often in the face of a clerical culture, fighting against a clerical culture which values high titles and positions - your Eminence, all these ridiculous distinctions, right reverend, very reverend...this crisis may be the beginning of a profound renewal of the Church."

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Links:

[1] <http://www.irishcatholic.ie/d5/content/abuse-church-power-key-crisis-radcliffe>