

## NEWSFLASH: Pope meets abuse victims in Malta

John L. Allen Jr. | Apr. 18, 2010 NCR Today

**Valletta, Malta** -- A Vatican spokesperson confirmed this afternoon that Pope Benedict XVI has had a private meeting with victims of sexual abuse in Malta. It is the pope's third such encounter, after meetings with victims in the United States in April 2008 and, in July of the same year, in Australia.

The victims had previously met with Archbishop Paul Cremona, head of the local Catholic church in Malta, who said earlier today that the church "must be humble enough to recognize the failures and sins of its members."

Vatican spokespersons had consistently said that while a meeting with victims in Malta was possible, it would not be announced beforehand, and had cautioned journalists against creating "great expectations" of such a meeting.

A Vatican statement released today said the pope "was deeply moved by their stories and expressed his shame and sorrow over what victims and their families have suffered."

"He prayed with them and assured them that the Church is doing, and will continue to do, all in its power to investigate allegations, to bring to justice those responsible for abuse and to implement effective measures designed to safeguard young people in the future," the statement said.

**See also:** [Victim in Malta: Pope had 'tears in his eyes'](#) [1]

More details on the session to follow.

[John Allen is NCR senior correspondent. His e-mail address is [jallen@ncronline.org](mailto:jallen@ncronline.org).]

---

## Benedict's Trip to Malta

## Support independent Catholic journalism.

- [Benedict's strategy on crisis: 'Pastoral not Political'](#) [3]
- [Victim in Malta: Pope had 'tears in his eyes'](#) [1]
- [NEWSFLASH: Pope meets abuse victims in Malta](#) [4]
- [Pope delivers strong plea to resist secularism](#) [5]
- [Vatican strategy in Malta: 'Let Benedict be Benedict'](#) [6]
- [Crisis hangs over pope in Malta like volcanic ash](#) [7]
- [Pope keeps focus on Malta's past, present -- not his own](#) [8]
- [Malta president upstages pope on crisis](#) [9]
- [Church 'wounded by our sins'](#) [10]
- [Facing stormy seas, pope heads to Malta to recall a shipwreck](#) [11]

Support independent Catholic journalism

Image not found [2]  
[http://ncronline.org/files/images/donate\\_ncr.gif](http://ncronline.org/files/images/donate_ncr.gif)

## John Allen is in Rome

- [Sociologist compares today's crisis to Nazi smear campaign](#) [12]
- [Can a teaching pope get his house in order?](#) [13] Allen's Friday column
- [Brazil's bishops sound alarm about the Amazon](#) [14]
- [Vatican disses one of its own on sex abuse](#) [15]
- [Vatican spokesman says he doesn't feel under siege](#) [16]
- [Editor of Vatican paper comes out swinging on crisis](#) [17]
- [Commissioner likely to oversee Legion of Christ](#) [18]

---

**Source URL (retrieved on 05/24/2017 - 18:37):** <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/newsflash-pope-meets-abuse-victims-malta>

### Links:

[1] <http://ncronline.org/node/17936>

[2]

[http://openx.ncronline.org/www/delivery/ck.php?oaparams=2\\_\\_bannerid=30\\_\\_zoneid=56\\_\\_cb=a2fbd2d8b1\\_\\_oadest=ht](http://openx.ncronline.org/www/delivery/ck.php?oaparams=2__bannerid=30__zoneid=56__cb=a2fbd2d8b1__oadest=ht)

[3] <http://ncronline.org/node/17938>

[4] <http://ncronline.org/node/17934>

[5] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/pope-delivers-strong-plea-resist-secularism>

[6] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/vatican-strategy-malta-let-benedict-be-benedict>

[7] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/crisis-hangs-over-pope-malta-volcanic-ash>

[8] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/pope-keeps-focus-maltas-past-present-not-his-own>

[9] <http://ncronline.org/node/17929>

[10] <http://ncronline.org/node/17925>

[11] <http://ncronline.org/node/17913>

[12] <http://ncronline.org/node/17921>

[13] <http://ncronline.org/node/17907>

- [14] <http://ncronline.org/node/17903>
- [15] <http://ncronline.org/node/17902>
- [16] <http://ncronline.org/node/17851>
- [17] <http://ncronline.org/node/17845>
- [18] <http://ncronline.org/node/17836>