

Topline

The Pope Meets the Press: Media Coverage of the Clergy Abuse Scandal

Top stories in the news, Spring 2010			
Rank	Story	Number of stories	Percent of newshole
1	Health care legislation	854	16.0
2	Economic crisis	873	14.5
3	West Virginia coal mine accident	206	3.4
4	Iceland volcanic eruption	170	2.7
5	2010 elections	151	2.4
6	U.S./NATO mission in Afghanistan	135	2.3
7	Obama administration	139	2.3
8	Catholic priest abuse scandal	124	2.1
9	Education system/debate	103	2.0
10	Nuclear policy issues	133	1.9

Note: Dates covered are March 12, 2010-April 27, 2010.

Scandal coverage by media sector			
Rank among sector's top stories	Sector	Number of stories	Percent of sector's newshole
5	Network TV	51	3.7
5	Online	29	3.3
10	Newspapers	11	1.9
19	News Radio	10	1.5
22	Cable TV	23	0.9
N/A	Talk Radio	0	0.0

Note: Dates covered are March 12, 2010-April 27, 2010.

English-language newspapers' coverage of clergy abuse since 2002 (number of stories)						
<i>Region</i>	Jan-Apr '02	May-Aug '02	Sep-Dec '02	Jan-Apr '03	May-Aug '03	Sep-Dec '03
All papers	1426	1636	957	510	589	416
U.S.	883	896	505	296	347	221
Europe	237	119	251	93	81	75
<i>Region</i>	Jan-Apr '04	May-Aug '04	Sep-Dec '04	Jan-Apr '05	May-Aug '05	Sep-Dec '05
All papers	465	380	279	452	260	375
U.S.	313	185	170	237	132	186
Europe	56	70	42	75	35	111
<i>Region</i>	Jan-Apr '06	May-Aug '06	Sep-Dec '06	Jan-Apr '07	May-Aug '07	Sep-Dec '07
All papers	301	159	289	154	275	163
U.S.	176	74	133	100	85	99
Europe	44	42	58	24	48	26
<i>Region</i>	Jan-Apr '08	May-Aug '08	Sep-Dec '08	Jan-Apr '09	May-Aug '09	Sep-Dec '09
All papers	281	348	134	226	310	487
U.S.	121	56	51	82	55	87
Europe	87	35	43	96	174	268
<i>Region</i>	Jan-Apr '10					
All papers	1559					
U.S.	252					
Europe	765					

Note: Stories are included that contained a reference to the clergy abuse scandal. "All papers" are major world newspapers, English-language, as defined by Nexis. U.S. and European papers were drawn from the larger universe of major world newspapers.

Degree to which recent scandals have been tied to individuals				
Scandal	Start of media monitoring	Newsmaker	Total number of stories	Percent of stories tied to newsmaker
Tiger Woods affairs	11/27/09	Tiger Woods	329	90.0
Roman Polanski arrest	9/28/09	Roman Polanski	72	87.5
New York governor scandals	3/01/01	David Patterson	28	82.1
Bernie Madoff ponzi scheme	12/16/08	Bernie Madoff	593	71.7
John Edwards affair	7/22/08	John Edwards	174	66.7
Clergy abuse scandal	3/12/10	Pope Benedict	124	51.6
Misuse of GOP funds	3/30/10	Michael Steele	32	50.0
Illinois Senate seat backroom deals	12/09/08	Rod Blagojevich	1114	44.9
"Balloon Boy" hoax	10/15/09	Richard Heene	143	33.6
MLB steroid use	1/09/07	Roger Clemens	379	21.7

Abuse scandal lead newsmakers, March 12-April 27, 2010		
Lead Newsmaker	Number of stories	Percent of abuse scandal stories
Pope Benedict	64	51.6
William Levada (succeeded Benedict as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)	3	2.4
Sean Brady (head of Catholic Church in Ireland)	2	1.6
Marcial Maciel Degollado (founder of Legion of Christ, later removed from ministry by Pope Benedict)	2	1.6
John Magee (Irish bishop, resigned in 2010 amid scandal)	2	1.6
David Clohessy (director of Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests)	1	0.8
José Gómez (Coadjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles)	1	0.8
Dario Castrillon Hoyos (Colombian cardinal who once praised a French bishop for not reporting a pedophile priest)	1	0.8
Werner Huth (psychiatrist who treated sexually abusive German priest Peter Hullermann)	1	0.8
Stephen Kiesle (defrocked California pedophile priest)	1	0.8
Jim Moriarty (Irish bishop who resigned in late 2009 amidst fallout from the handling of abuse cases)	1	0.8

Note: Percentages do not sum to 100 because some stories do not have a lead newsmaker.

Catholic media coverage of clergy abuse scandal, Spring 2010			
Outlet	Total Vatican stories	Vatican stories about abuse scandal	Percent of Vatican stories about scandal
National Catholic Reporter	15	10	66.7
Catholic News Service	58	26	44.8
Catholic News Agency	329	98	29.8
All three combined	402	134	33.3

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Top U.S. newspaper religion blogs, coverage of clergy scandal, Spring 2010			
Blog	Total stories	Total stories about abuse scandal	Percent of blog posts about clergy scandal
Washington Post	33	12	36.4
USA Today	49	12	24.5
Chicago Tribune	18	2	11.1
Houston Chronicle	49	27	2.0
Combined	149	27	18.1

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