



Victimology and the Relational Safety Model

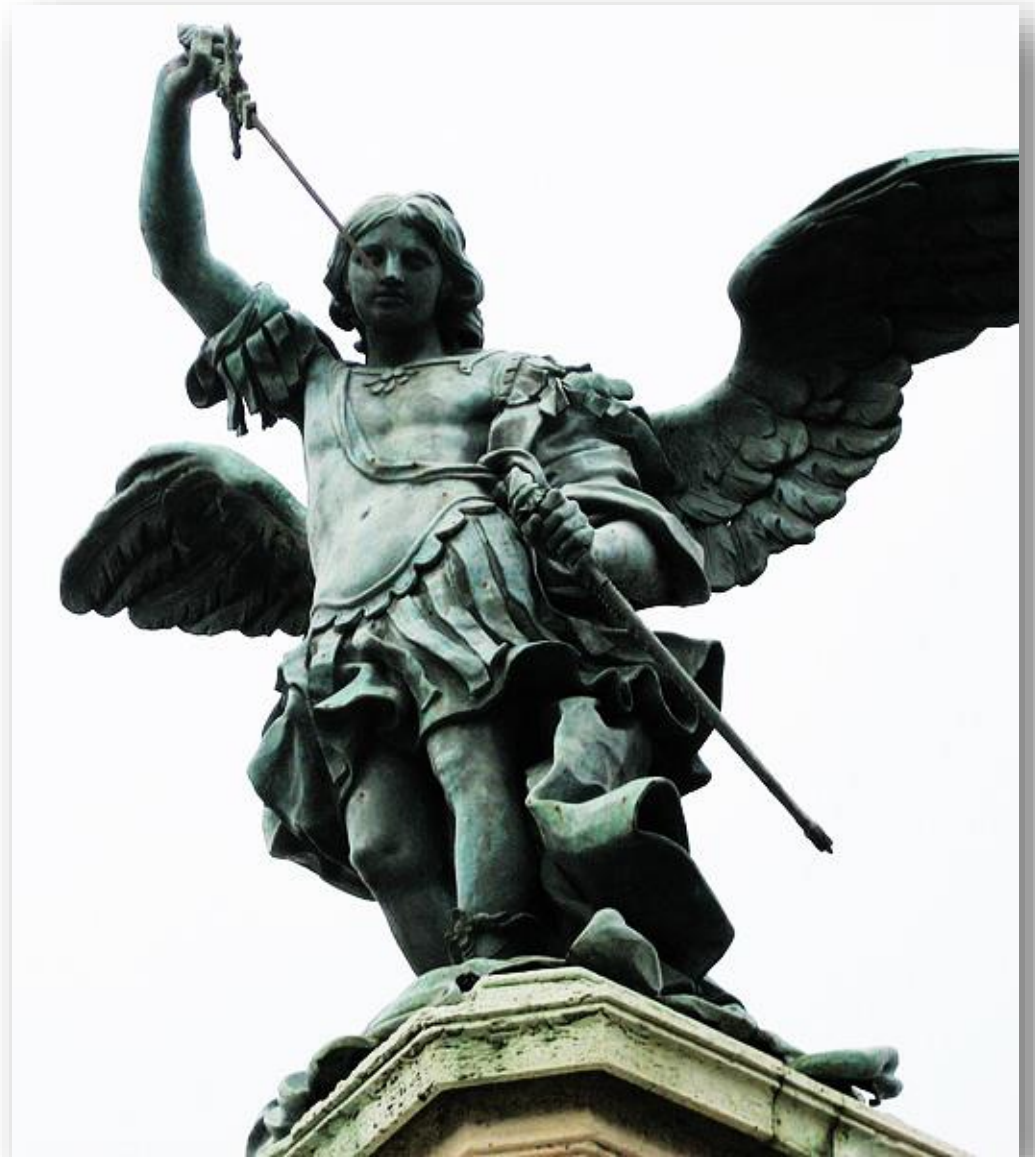
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St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, o prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen





Vision



Press **F11** to exit full screen



Francis > Motu Proprio >

APOSTOLIC LETTER
ISSUED MOTU PROPRIO

BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF
FRANCIS

ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

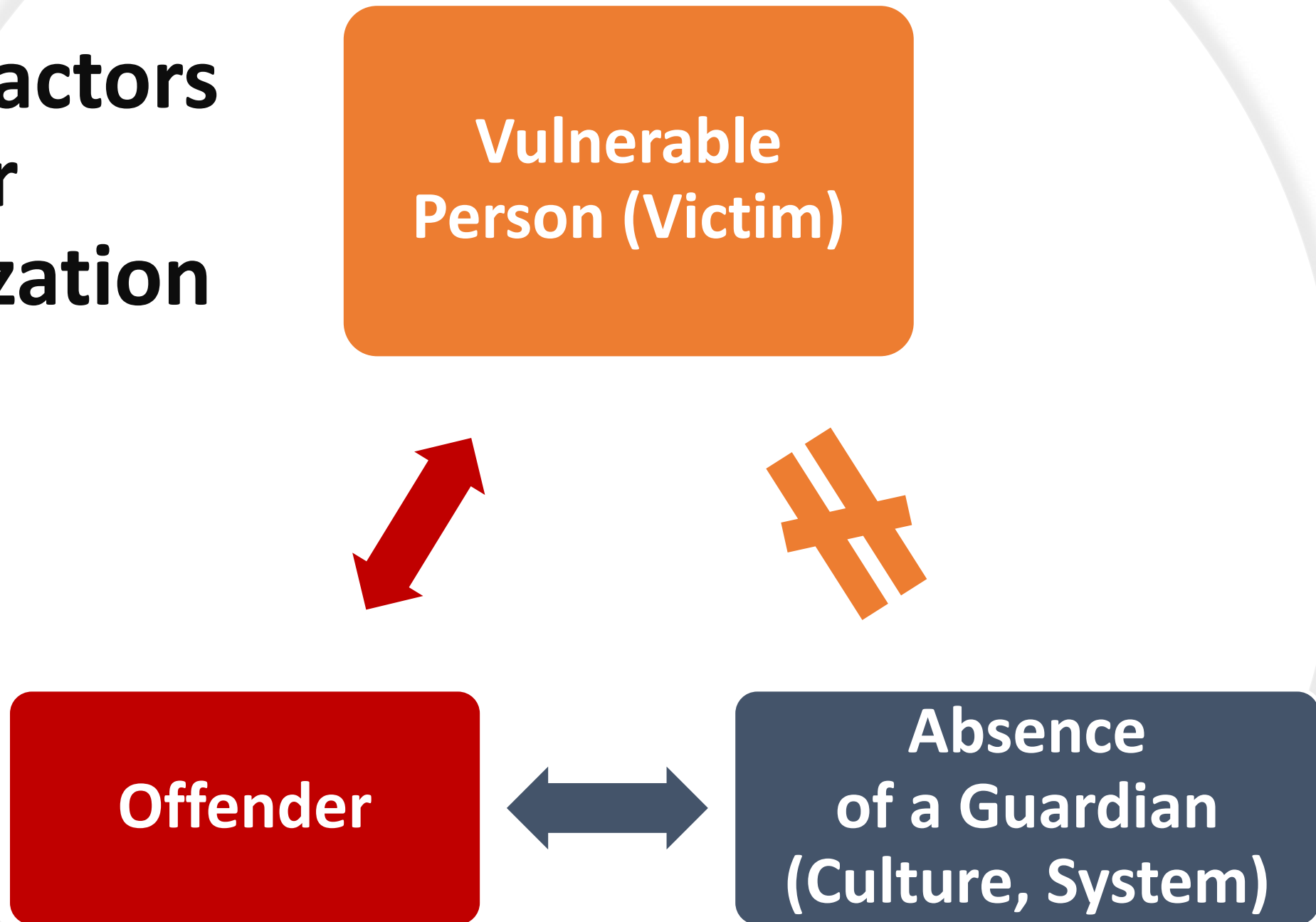
The protection of minors and vulnerable persons is an integral part of the Gospel message that the Church is called to proclaim throughout the world. Christ himself, in fact, has entrusted us with the care and protection of the defenceless: "whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me" (Mt 18:5). Therefore, we all have a moral commitment to come to the aid of those in need, to count on their support and to count on their vigilance. I want to strengthen even more the institutional and regulatory framework of the Church, to ensure that the community is respectful and mindful of the rights and the needs of minors and of vulnerable persons, vigilant in preventing any form of physical or psychological violence or abuse, abandonment, neglect, ill-treatment that may occur either in interpersonal relationships or in shared spaces and facilities;

- everyone becomes ever more aware of the duty to report abuses to the competent Authorities and to cooperate

Victimology



3 Risk Factors for Victimization





What do we know about
victims in the Church?

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of Those Abused by Priests (**Victims**)



Gender

US: 81% male, 19% female

Australia: 78% male, 22% female

Germany: 63% male, 35% female
(2% unknown)



Age

US: Average 12.5 years (male 12.8, female 11.4)

Australia: Average 11.4 years
(male 11.6, female 10.5)

Germany: 51.6% 13 years old or younger



What do we know about
offenders in the Church?

CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of Offenders

Source: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2019



Average time between ordination and abuse

- US: 11 years
 - Varies by cohort
 - “Serial abusers” began abusing within 1st year after ordination
- Germany: 14.3 years



Many exhibited grooming behaviors

Emotional, spiritual manipulation

- Enticements
- Privileges

CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of Offenders

Are clergy with allegations of sexually abusing minors distinguishable from non-abusers? (Causes & Context Study, John Jay College of Criminal Justice)



Priests treated for sexual abuse of a minor

1. More likely to have a history of sexual abuse (significant in one clinical sample)
2. Exhibited intimacy deficits, often emotional congruence with adolescents, and often other problems (e.g., stress, obesity, alcohol, gambling)
3. 5% clinically diagnosed as pedophiles in two separate clinical samples; abusive priests more likely to be “generalists”
4. No more likely than others to have diagnosable psychological disorders
5. MMPI difference – only on higher score for “overcontrolled hostility”



Priests treated for sexual abuse of a minor

CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of **Offenders**

Are clergy with allegations of sexually abusing minors distinguishable from non-abusers?

- Most priests who sexually abused minors also had sexual relationships with adults (80%)
- Homosexuality and sexual abuse of minors
 - Sexual experience – heterosexual or homosexual – before ordination predicts sexual behavior after ordination, but with adults – not minors
 - Sexual behavior was most often varied (in regard to age and gender)

*(Causes & Context Study, John Jay
College of Criminal Justice)*



Priests treated for sexual abuse of a minor

CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of Offenders

(Causes & Context Study, John Jay College of Criminal Justice)

- Homosexuality and sexual abuse of minors
 - Most incidents of abuse occur before the 1980s – when homosexual behavior in seminary reportedly increased
 - This finding is consistent with academic research – homosexual orientation alone is not a significant predictor of sexual abuse of minors
- German study, “...neither homosexuality nor celibacy are the *ipso facto* causes of the sexual abuse of minors”
- “Confused” sexual identity critical in 1940s/1950s cohorts (US)



What do we know about
how well the Church has
been a Guardian?

CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of the **Institutional Response**

- Structural factors within the organization create abuse opportunities
 - High levels of isolation, discretion
 - Little direct supervision
- Abuse occurred in private
 - In US, 40% of abuse occurred in parish residence
- Abused those to whom they had access



CSA in the Catholic Church: Characteristics of the **Institutional Response**

- Church leaders historically focused their response on priests, not victims
 - Responses lacked transparency
- Type of Response changed over time
 - Treatment or reprimand and return to ministry → administrative leave
- Acknowledgement of victims in 1990s
 - Towards Healing (*Australia*), Five Principles (*US*)
 - Changes not fully implemented
- Protection policies resulting from the *Charter (US)*
 - Safe environment training
 - Audits



**We have not
done well**

**Vulnerable Person
(Victims)**



Offender



**Absence
of a Guardian
(Institutional
Response)**

Why?



Why is so important to the
Holy Father that fortify
being a “Guardian?”



... these boys and girls had been entrusted to the priestly charism, in order to be brought to God.

And those people sacrificed them to the idol of their own concupiscence...

... there is no place in ministry...



Holy Father's
Address to the
Pontifical
Commission
(21 Sep 2017)

... the **primary responsibility lies with bishops, priests and religious**, those who have received from the Lord the vocation to offer their lives to service, including the vigilant protection of all vulnerable children, young people and adults.

Presence of a Guardian: 3 Levels of Prevention & Intervention



SAFE SELF

PERSONAL FORMATION

Victims & Offenders



SAFE COMMUNITY

INTERPERSONAL
FORMATION

Bystander Interventions



SAFE MINISTRY

ORGANIZATIONAL
POLICY, SYSTEM,
CULTURE

Institutional Interventions

TRIPOD OF RELATIONAL SAFETY MODEL



Safeguarding assumes a **safe self** lived out in a **safe community** towards a **safe ministry** in the service of God's people

Relational Safety Model

*C. La Vina, Catholic
Safeguarding Institute, 2018*

Tripod Model of Relational Safety



Principles	Safe Self “I”	Safe Community “I-Thou”	Safe Ministry “Thou”
• Prevention • Intervention	• Prevention	• Prevention	• Prevention • Intervention

Tripod Model of Relational Safety



Principles	Safe Self “I”	Safe Community “I-Thou”	Safe Ministry “Thou”
• Spirituality • Theology • Catechism • Christian Anthropology • Integral Human Development • Responsibility • Transparency • Accountability	• Affective maturity • Sexual maturity • Virtue development • Spiritual maturity • Self –Care • Risk Factors • When to seek help • Initial & ongoing formation	• Relational dynamics • Power differentials • Fraternity & Community • Formation, a life process • Media Literacy • Porn & Online Safety	• Safeguarding Mission Leadership • Safeguarding Policy • Protocols: Prevention & Intervention • Codes of Conduct • Structures: organizational & physical • Screening of candidates & ongoing formation • Staffing of Ministries: employees, volunteers, partners • Stable System of Reporting • Laws: Canon & Civil • Ministry to Victims & Perpetrators • Monitoring • Education & Formation • Awareness & Skills: design, facilitation, ongoing training/formation

Safe Ministry

Prevention Measures

Establish / Enhance Protective
Factors

Reduce Risks

Prevent offense from happening

Intervention Measures

Address crime and its consequences
after it has happened

Prevention

1. Safeguarding Mission Leadership
2. Safeguarding Policy
3. Structures: organizational & physical
4. Protocols
5. Codes of Conduct
6. Screening of candidates (e.g., 2016 Ratio)
7. Initial formation (e.g., 2016 Ratio)
8. Ongoing formation (e.g., 2016 Ratio)
9. Staffing of Ministries: employees, volunteers, partners
10. Stable System of Reporting
11. Monitoring, Audit, Quality Assurance
12. Education, Formation, Training

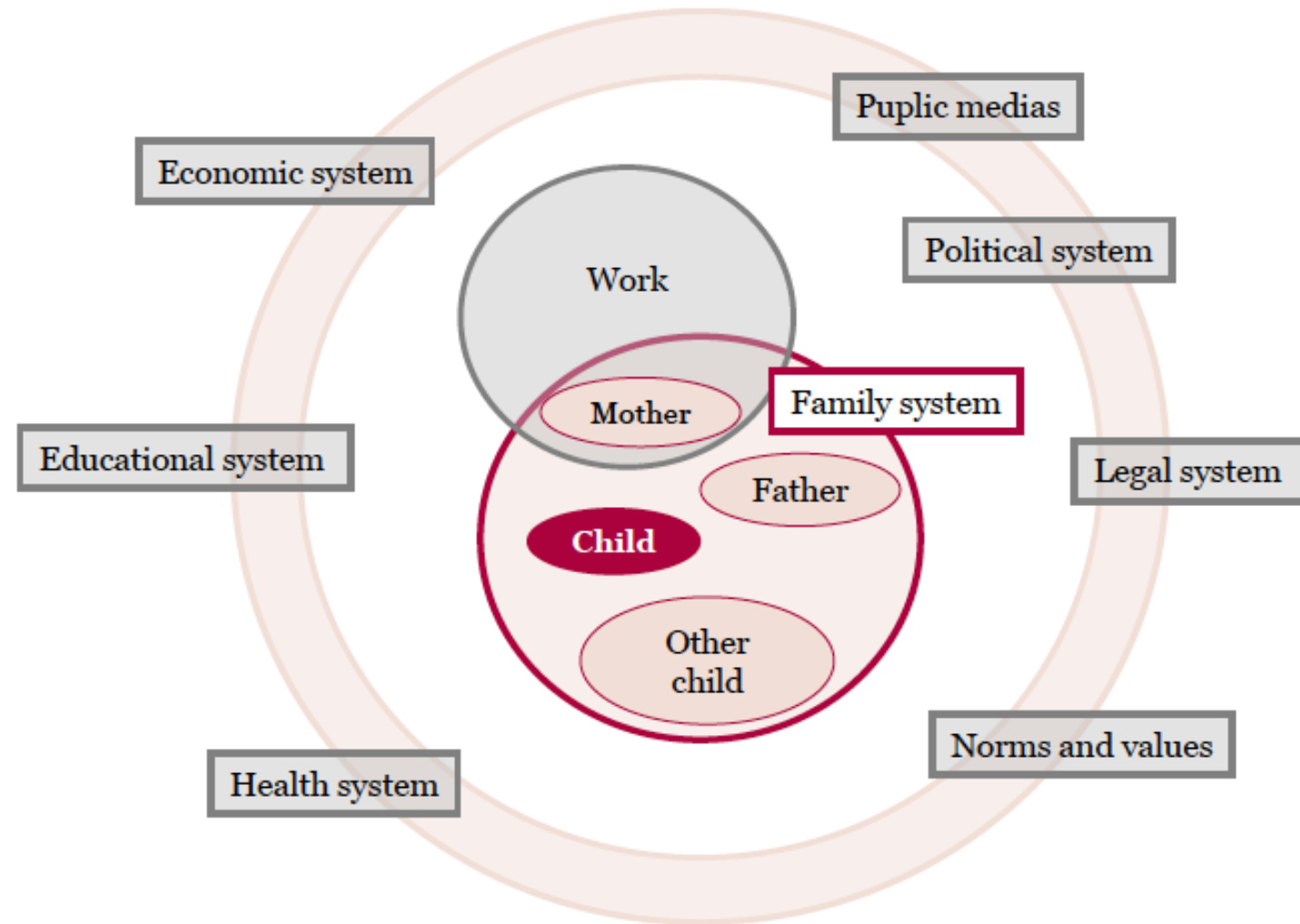
✓ Awareness & Skills Training: design, facilitation, repetition

Intervention

1. Safeguarding Mission Leadership
2. Safeguarding Policy
3. Protocols: Prevention & Intervention
4. Stable System of Reporting
5. Laws: Canon & Civil
6. Ministry to Victims
7. Ministry Perpetrators

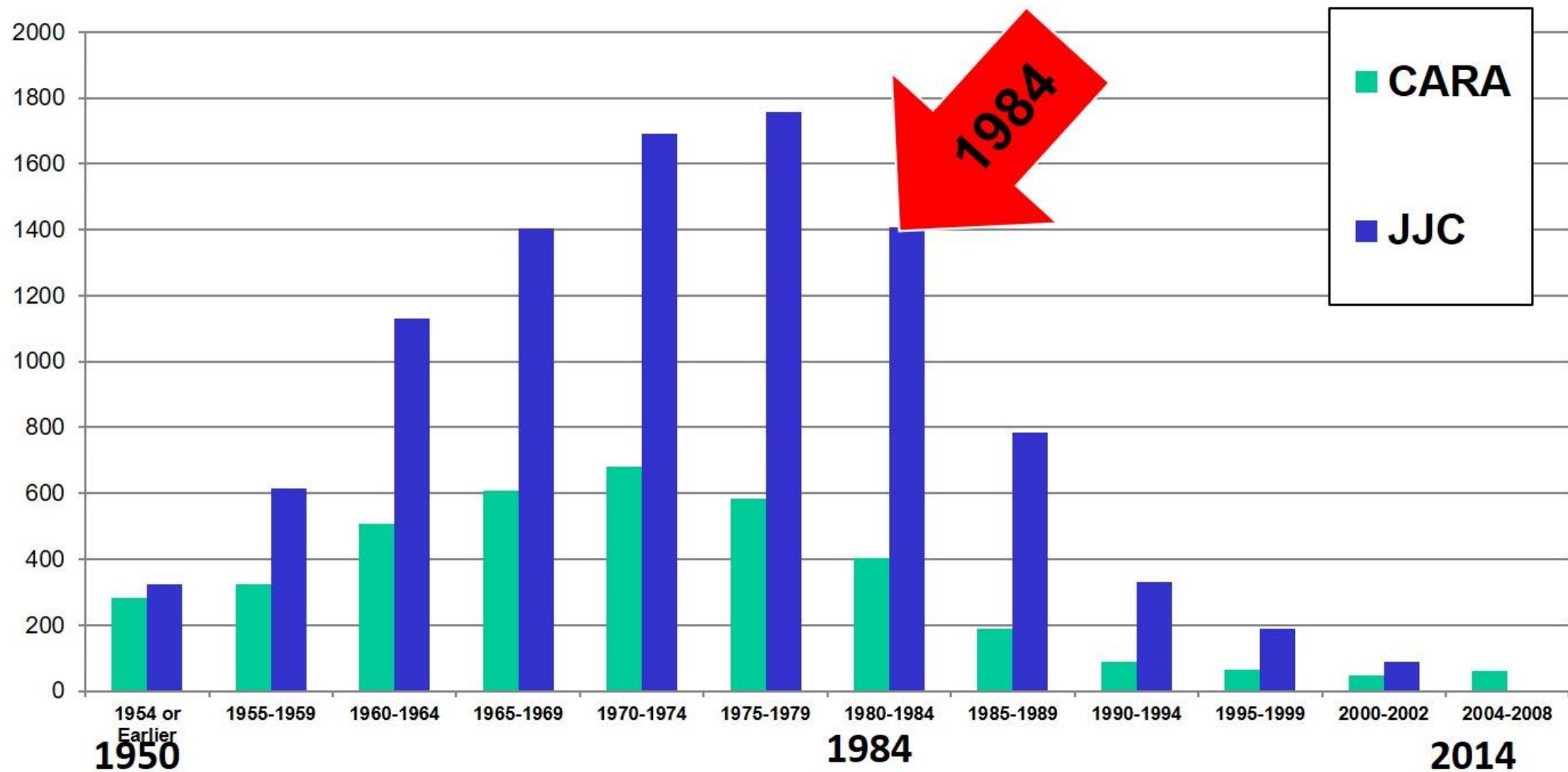
Sexual offending occurs in a complex web of factors:
Environment
Persons
Situation

Complexity of subsystems



USA Timeframe and Distribution of Incidences of Abuse by Priests

Sources: John Jay Studies, (JJC) 1950-2002, & CARA, 2004-2008



In fidelity to the Master

H.H. Francis. (19 March 2018).
Gaudete et exsultate, no. 96.



A woman wearing a black veil and a black long-sleeved garment is shown in profile, facing right. She is touching the trunk of a tree with her right hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a light sky and a body of water. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Sub tuum praesidium

We fly to your protection, holy Mother
of God.

Hear us as we implore your help in
our need,
and deliver us always from all danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

- circa 250 AD