“At this table we put aside every worldly separation based on culture, class or other differences. This communion is why all prejudice, all racism, all sexism, all deference to wealth and power must be banished from our parishes, our homes, our lives.”

—Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

On July 15th, 2010 the Vatican released a clarification of its canonical procedures in regards to the sexual abuse of children by priests. This statement adds the ordination of women to the list of “delicta graviora,” the most serious crimes in church law, alongside the sexual abuse of minors. We believe that the sexual abuse of children and the cover up of abuse are grave sins which need to be taken most seriously. However, we believe that the ordination of women is an issue that deserves serious study and discernment by the church. This issue does not belong in the list of delicta graviora.

We stand with survivors in calling for the release of the names of all credibly accused Catholic religious leaders and those who have aided them in their crimes. Further, we ask for the Vatican’s immediate adoption and implementation of global child protection policies. We are asking the Vatican to take responsibility for the crimes that bishops, priests, and other religious leaders have committed against the Church. We are asking for our leadership to be just in its approach to sexual abuse and to separate this issue from the issue of women’s ordination.

Signature	**Name**	**E-mail, Phone # and/ or mailing address**

By signing you are giving permission for your name to be printed with this statement in a newspaper or Catholic Action Network newsletter. For more information contact Catholic Action Network at 314.721.2977, www.catholicactionnetwork.org, or can@catholicactionnetwork.org