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## The French church analyzes (under pressure) how to compensate cases of pedophilia



Sources: New Tribune

A month after a report denounced that at <u>least 216,000 minors were victims of pedophilia</u> within the French Catholic Church in the last 70 years, the country's bishops began a key meeting on Tuesday focused on the compensation of those cases and the changes that must be imposed.

Its plenary assembly, which is being held until next Monday in Lourdes, dedicates the bulk of its agenda to the fight against sexual assaults on minors and will end with resolutions from which concrete measures are expected to repair the situation and ensure, as it was said today, that the Church is a safe place for its faithful.

The meeting did not mince words: its president, Éric de Moulins-Beaufort, highlighted "something that I think is in the heart and mind of all bishops: the great shame of seeing all that suffering and injustice," the Bishop of Versailles, Luc Crépy, said at a press conference.

At the previous assembly, in March, the French Catholic Church had announced the creation of a specific fund to financially help victims of sexual abuse at the hands of priests, composed of voluntary contributions, and this, marked by the impact of the report, plans to go further.

Not surprisingly, a poll released by the Catholic newspaper La Croix on October 28 pointed out that 85% of the Catholics surveyed said they were "angry" after the publication of the investigation of the independent commission CIASE and that 76% considered that the reaction of the ecclesiastical hierarchy had not been up to the task.

"The report somewhat expands all the fields in which the church is responsible," said the bishop of Versailles, according to which the question of responsibility is as important as that of how to respond to the recommendations received, which include reviewing the secrecy of confession.

The Lourdes meeting invited some victims and is expected to facilitate work between the bishops and those affected, making it clear that there is no taboo subject.

"Compensation will be addressed. There is to think about the victims for whom the crime has already expired and who therefore will not have a criminal conviction. Think about how the church should work to recognize those people and do an act of justice," the bishop said.

El informe que ha puesto a la Iglesia católica gala en el punto de mira fue encargado por

Conferencia Episcopal pero superó las peores previsiones y llegó a provocar en octubre

que algunas víctimas reclamaran la dimisión en bloque de todos los obispos.

Algo que se descartó este martes, no sin aceptar sin embargo que algunos representantes

eclesiásticos sí podrían acabar abandonando su puesto.

The prevailing atmosphere, according to the secretary general and spokesman of the

Episcopal Conference, Hugues de Woillemont, is "serious" and aware of the expectations

placed on them.

"We have the will that at the end of this assembly there will be important decisions and

gestures to continue fighting against all forms of aggression or violence in the church," he

told the press, advancing that the planned fund has already raised "hundreds of thousands

of euros."

The Episcopal Conference said it was listening to the victims and, underlining its

collaboration with civil justice, assured that "it has not excluded anyone" and that, in the

planned and necessary change, everyone has its place.

Source: https://www.nuevatribuna.es/articulo/global/iglesia-francesa-analiza-presion-

como-indemnizar-casos-pederastia/20211102173613192357.html