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To: fcdc@parliament.vic.gov.au  
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

Mr Robert Dumsday

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#### **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I am a 68 year old confirmed Church of England agnostic who as a boy in a State School defended the Catholic Church from allegations and rumours about priests sexually abusing boys in their care. I was probably wrong then.

I married a Catholic woman and we had one daughter and three boys, who went to Catholic Ladies College, Eltham and Parade College, Bundoora, respectively. I have not heard of any abuse cases at either of those schools then or now. We belonged to the St Frances Xavier Parish headed by Father Casamento and again, I did not hear of any cases of abuse and it was a very happy Parish.

But more recently I have lived in Germany for 3 years and from media reports there the current Pope is at best a little dismissive of the issue, particularly with respect to German and Irish cases. The Catholic Church is being greatly harmed in the eyes of the General Public. Your Inquiry should distinguish between the good the Church does while hammering the guilty. It should lead to a Royal Commission as there is a clear deficiency in the number of cases being brought to trial through the normal channels.