

9/10/07 - Protesters demand Cape Cod priest's apology
By Peter Schworm, Centerville, MA, Boston Globe

A small group of lay activists and victims of clergy abuse held a morning protest outside a Cape Cod church yesterday and called for a high-ranking church leader to apologize for his role in allegedly reassigning accused priests during the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal.

The protesters, who included members of Voice of the Faithful and other grassroots and victims' groups, held signs with photographs of sexual abuse victims from when they were children in front of Our Lady of Victory Church in Centerville, where the Rev. Paul E. Miceli is a part-time priest.

Miceli was the former secretary of ministerial personnel for the Archdiocese of Boston under former archbishop Cardinal Bernard Law, and a member of his Cabinet from 1994 to 2001. Protesters accused Miceli of helping to cover up the clergy scandal by transferring accused priests to other parishes, and demanded he tell the truth about his participation in the crisis.

"We want him to be accountable and responsible for what he did because there are people who will never recover because of it," said Paul Kendrick, cofounder of the Maine chapter of the Voice of the Faithful, a lay activist group. "It's hard for me to understand how people can come here and listen to his homilies and ignore all the people he's harmed, the children he scarred because he wanted to protect the church instead of them."

Kendrick and others said they have for several years called for Miceli to apologize to abuse victims.

Miceli could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In a statement, the Rev. Mark Hession, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, described Miceli as a trusted colleague and "true blessing for our parish family."