

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

T-26

Sex, Priests and Power: Anatomy of a Crisis

William Schmidt, PhD

Richard Sipe writes, “Abusive sexual behaviors inhere in the system of priestly power.” The celibate sexual system demonstrates a false understanding of the nature of human sexuality and primary Christian experience. Legal systems are forcing Catholic Church authority to confront the problem of sexual abuse by priests. This presentation addresses these issues. Suggestions for the healing of victims and proposals for systemic change to prevent abuse will be offered.

Learning Goals:

- Participants will analyze the historical connection between celibacy, power and abuse.
- Participants will reflect on characteristics of sexually abusive priests.
- Participants will identify institutional factors contributing to both the abuse and healing of persons abused by priests.

William Schmidt is a Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider and a Certified Sexual Addiction Counselor in Houston, Texas. For over twenty five years, he has provided therapy to priests and religious women and men facing a variety of life challenges.

Ordained a priest in 1980, William Schmidt worked with Christian communities in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. He transitioned from active ministry in the Catholic Church in 1990.

William Schmidt holds a Master of Divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary (1980), an MSW (1993) and Ph.D (2000) from the College of Social Work, University of Houston.

His writings include Standing Tall: Doing Justice in Time of War (2006) and Becoming a Storyteller: Wisdom, Trauma and the Dalai Lama (2009).