

## OPEN LETTER

Santiago, August 27, 2018  
Your Holiness Francis  
Domus Sanctae Marthae, 00120  
Vatican City

Your Holiness:

In your letter to the Catholics of Chile dated May 31, 2018, you said, referring to the scandal of sexual abuse committed by consecrated persons, that *“Recently, it is a time of listening and discernment to address the roots that allowed such atrocities to take place and perpetuate, and thus to have solutions to the abuses scandal, not with merely containment strategies - indispensable but insufficient- but with all the necessary measures to be able to fully assume the problem in its complexity.”*

I am convinced that, in terms of causes and roots, psychological science has much to contribute to the church considering the serious problem it faces.

For this reason, I am sending you, attached to this letter, a complete and extensive conceptual and bibliographical study about what is, from my professional point of view, the fundamental issue of the crisis: a Church conception of human sexuality that rests on assumptions that are fallacious in the light of contemporary psychological science.

The original version of this study has just been published in Chile, in Ciper, a prestigious digital investigative journal. The link to the published article is: <https://ciperchile.cl/2018/08/21/iglesia-y-sexualidad-los-graves-efectos-del-celibato-y-la-abstinencia/>

I am certain that the study that I am sending may prove to be a relevant antecedent to promote in the Church, as you mentioned in your letter, "*a theological reflection that is capable of being at the level of the present time, promoting a mature adult faith and of assuming the humus vital of the People of God with its searches and questionings*".

At your disposal and service, respectfully yours,



**CLAUDIO IBAÑEZ S.**

**Psychologist**

**CEO**

**Chilean Institute of Positive Psychology**

**Cel: +56 9 98294620**

**Gral. Holley 2363, Of. 1205 – Providencia**

**[www.sicologiapositiva.cl](http://www.sicologiapositiva.cl)**

**Santiago - Chile**

C.C. Monsignor Charles Scicluna  
Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu  
Monsignor Ivo Scapolo - Apostolic Nuncio Chile  
Monsignor Santiago Silva – President Episcopal Conference Chile