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RUBEN DIAZ April 6, 2010

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Senator Rev. Rubén Díaz today forcefully condemned the ongoing attack against the Catholic Church and Pope Benedict XVI.

"Even though I am a Protestant minister and the President of an Evangelical Ministers' Association, there is no organization - religious, public or private - that has done more to assist children, the homeless and the hungry, the vulnerable and the poor, than the Catholic Church," stated Senator Rev. Díaz.

The Catholic Church and Pope Benedict XVI have come under repeated attacks recently for allegations related to child sexual abuse and the Pope's involvement in his home diocese when he served as Archbishop there.

Senator Rev. Díaz continued, "I want to be perfectly clear, the crime of child sexual abuse must not be tolerated. Those who commit these heinous acts and those who protect the perpetrators must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Children must be

protected at all times. But we should not allow some enemies of the Church with hidden agendas to use some past incidences committed by a few to destroy the Catholic Church and its leader, and the vast history of good works done by the Church."

"I am calling on all Catholics, Protestants, and people of good will throughout New York State, to join me in fighting the enemies of the Catholic Church who seek to undermine all the great works the Church has accomplished throughout history and in the process threaten its very existence," concluded Senator Rev. Díaz.