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Change the World Project Proposal

For our data science project, we will be using data about high-ranking members of the Roman Catholic church who have been accused of sexual misbehavior. Our MVP will likely be a map visualization that displays information about sexual misconduct cases that have occurred in each state. Our stretch goal is making this visualization interactive, so that it can provide a big picture perspective of the issue. The user can click on smaller features (individual states or cities) to see more details about specific cases, as in Albert Cairo's visualization of gun violence.

Until we saw the movie *Spotlight*, we were not aware of the sheer magnitude of sexual assault cases by priests in the Catholic church. Members of the Roman Catholic church (like Casey) view their leaders in a positive light, and as a result, many have difficulty starting a conversation about this issue. Therefore, we would like to use our knowledge in data science to push people to start having this discussion.

We found a database ([download here](#)) with information about 4,000 priests who have been involved in sexual misconduct cases with minors. The data includes the name of the priest, the location of the diocese, and general notes about the accused. The data, however, is a bit messy and we foresee that it will be challenging to clean it. So, for this project, we would like to learn how to scrape and clean data more effectively. We would also like to learn more about ways of visualizing data in more interesting ways that provoke meaningful thoughts with few words.

The MVP for our final deliverable would be an ipython notebook with a static image of a map that would display information about these cases. Our stretch goal is to use d3 to make the map interactive.