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Francis George recalled for role in sexual abuse scandal



St. Mary's Church in Buffalo Grove welcomes Cardinal Francis George to recognize the ministry of alter services. Here Cardinal George says mass for the people of St. Mary's Church in Buffalo Grove.

Mark Welsh/Daily Herald file

Associated Press

Cardinal Francis George is being remembered for his role in the clergy sex abuse scandal among other parts of his legacy.

George died Friday at the age of 78 after a long battle with cancer.

Archbishop Blase Cupich praised him for leading a group of U.S. bishops to urge the Vatican to move more quickly to oust guilty priests. The policy was at the core of church reforms on the issue.

But George came under harsh criticism for allowing a local priest to remain in a parish for months despite allegations that he'd molested children. The priest ultimately pleaded guilty and George apologized.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests on Friday said that George could have prevented some of the abuse had he 'done the right thing.'