

Update on sexual abuse of minors by priests

My Dear People,

In January 2004 and again in October of last year, I issued statements to you in which I detailed our findings regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests in our diocese. In this statement, I would like to give you an update.

In 2006 our diocese again was examined by independent auditors retained by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to determine our compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Our diocese was the subject of similar audits in 2003 and 2004, and a self-audit, with oversight by outside auditors, was conducted in 2005. All four audits found our diocese in full compliance with the charter.

In my prior reports I outlined the steps we have taken as a diocese in all our parishes and institutions to protect our children, including systematic background checks of all clergy, employees and volunteers who have regular contact with minors; strengthening standards of ethical behavior for all church personnel and volunteers; and implementation of a safe-environments program, including the training of staff in parishes, schools and other institutions to recognize and prevent child abuse. Last year our safe-environments committee implemented a curriculum designed to instruct children, in an age-appropriate manner, about the dangers of child abuse, and what to do if they are approached inappropriately. We continue to address the problem of sexual abuse aggressively, and we continue to take all prudent steps to prevent it.

Between October 2005 and October 2006, we received five reports of sexual abuse of minors involving three priests of this diocese. Two of these reports were made by third parties who did not identify a victim. Two of the accused priests have died; the one who is living is no longer

in ministry. The diocese had received earlier complaints about all three priests identified in the reports.

Between October 2005 and October 2006, the diocese spent \$6,000 for counseling and other support for victims and their families, \$60,000 was paid in settlements, and \$46,697 was paid in legal expenses.

Now, I must address the recent tragic news that Father Francis G. DeLuca, a priest of our diocese who was removed from ministry in 1993, was recently arrested in Syracuse, N.Y., on criminal charges of sexually abusing a minor. In light of this tragedy, after extensive consultation with the Diocesan Review Board, and at their recommendation, I have decided to disclose the names of 18 of the 20 priests of our diocese, both living and deceased, about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or otherwise substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

Eight of these priests are living, and information concerning all of them was previously disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in Delaware and Maryland, depending on where the alleged abuse occurred. All of these living priests were removed from ministry between 1985 and 2003, and the names of all but two of them were previously disclosed publicly by the diocese or by others. The names of the 18 priests and their assignments are listed below.

Reasons for disclosure

I have decided to disclose the names of these priests for two reasons. First, I am deeply troubled, and profoundly regret, that a priest of this diocese, removed from ministry so many years ago, has once again sexually abused a minor. I am deeply sorry for this and apologize to the victim and his family for their suffering. I pledge to them whatever consolation and support we can offer to aid them in their healing. By disclosing the

names and locations of those living priests about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or otherwise substantiated allegations of sexual abuse, we perhaps in some way may help prevent or deter any further incidents.

The second reason for disclosing the names of these 18 accused priests is to continue the efforts of our diocese to encourage victims of clerical sexual abuse to come forward and seek help. The first obligation of the church is to assist in the healing of these victims. As previously reported, we have in place a Victim Assistance Coordinator who will help any victim and his or her family in securing the appropriate treatment and pastoral care.

It is with some hesitancy that I have decided to disclose the names of deceased priests about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors. These priests no longer can harm anyone, and several of them died before they were accused. I regret any further suffering that their victims may endure as a result of this disclosure, and any sorrow or embarrassment that their families and friends may experience. It is painful for many victims to be reminded publicly about their abusers.

However, it is our obligation to encourage any and all victims of clergy abuse to come forward so that they can be helped. Perhaps by identifying deceased priests, some of their victims may be motivated to seek help. As the Holy Father recently said to the Irish bishops, "it is important to establish the truth of what happened in the past [and] to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from occurring again."

Last year I reported that there were 20 diocesan priests found to have credible or substantiated allegations against them of sexual abuse of minors. That number has not changed, but today we are disclosing the names of 18 of these priests. In the cases of two of the deceased priests, the diocese received a single



Bishop Saltarelli

report of abuse, many years after their deaths. Although the allegation against each of these priests was credible, in the judgment of the Diocesan Review Board neither of these complaints has yet been substantiated.

In addition to the 20 diocesan priests found to have credible or substantiated complaints of sexual abuse of minors, there were two priests from other dioceses who ministered in the Diocese of Wilmington who were accused of sexual abuse elsewhere. In both cases, the alleged abuse occurred many years ago, in another diocese, and in one case prior to the

priest's ordination. After the alleged sexual abuse in these cases was reported to our diocese, and following an investigation of the circumstances, the priests were removed from ministry here. The names of these priests and their ministerial assignments in this diocese are provided below.

'Shocking and reprehensible'

The abuse of children by priests and other clergy is shocking and reprehensible. Victims and their families have suffered devastating harm. The faithful of the church, and the overwhelming number of good priests who serve them, also have suffered through this crisis. I reaffirm my com-

mitment to deal effectively and appropriately with complaints of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons and other church personnel. I recommit myself to care for the emotional, pastoral, and spiritual well-being of those who have suffered, and to take all appropriate steps to prevent any further abuse of children and young people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Michael A. Saltarelli
Bishop of Wilmington

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Names of 20 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors

PRIESTS OF DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

Edward B. Carley — Born 1917, ordained 1948, died 1998. *Assignments:* St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1948; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1954; St. Paul, Wilmington, 1962; St. Peter's Cathedral, Wilmington, 1964 and 1970; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1967; Our Mother of Sorrows, Centreville, Md., 1972; St. Dennis, Galena, Md., 1982; retired 1993.

Eugene F. Clarahan — Born 1925, ordained 1952, died 1999. *Assignments:* Corpus Christi, Elsmere, 1952; chaplain of (Del.) state institutions, 1960; Holy Spirit (residence), New Castle, 1967; St. Peter, New Castle, 1968; Holy Cross, Dover, 1978; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1983; St. Benedict, Ridgely, Md., 1987; removed from ministry 1993.

Francis P. Cornely — Born 1924, ordained 1949, died 1975. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1949; St. John the Baptist, Newark, 1950; St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1958; chaplain, University of Delaware, 1962; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners,

Cambridge, Md., 1964; Christ Our King, Wilmington, 1969; St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1974.

Francis G. DeLuca — Born 1929, ordained 1958. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1958; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1961; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1966; Holy Spirit, New Castle, 1969; St. Matthew, Wilmington, 1976, St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville, 1989; removed from ministry 1993; resides in Syracuse, N.Y.

Douglas W. Dempster — Born 1937, ordained 1962. *Assignments:* St. Michael the Archangel, Georgetown, 1962; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1962; Immaculate Conception, Elkton, Md., 1966; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1967; St. John-Holy Angels, Newark, 1969; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1970; diocesan chaplain of Boy and Girl Scouts, 1971; Church of the Holy Child, Wilmington, 1978; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1979; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Secretary, Md., 1992; removed from ministry 1993; resides in Marydel, Md.

Henry J. Dreyer — Born

1903, ordained 1930, died 1969. *Assignments:* St. Paul, Wilmington, 1930; St. Teresa, Port Deposit, Md., 1931; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1933; St. Charles, Cape Charles, Va., 1937; St. Teresa, Port Deposit, 1941; St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville, 1950; retired 1966; St. Ann, Wilmington (residence), 1967.

Edward F. Dudzinski — Born 1950, ordained 1978. *Assignments:* St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville (deacon), 1977; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1978; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1983; removed from ministry 1985; resides in northern Virginia.

Richard F. Gardiner — Born 1916, ordained 1968, died 1989. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, May 1968; Holy Cross, Dover, Nov. 1968; St. Ann, Bethany Beach, and St. Michael, Georgetown, 1972; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1974; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bear, 1978; St. Luke/St. Andrew, Ocean City, Md., 1985.

William E. Irwin — Born 1938, ordained 1964, died 2005. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1964; Immaculate Conception,

Elkton, 1964; Holy Cross, Dover, 1966; St. Mary of the Assumption, Hockessin, 1968; Immaculate Heart of Mary (residence), Wilmington, 1970; Our Lady of Fatima (residence), New Castle, 1972; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1976; St. Mary of the Assumption, 1986; Holy Family, Newark, 1990; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 2001; removed from ministry 2002.

John A. Lind — Born 1931, ordained 1960, died 1997. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1960; St. Catherine of Siena, Wilmington, 1962; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1965; removed from ministry 1966.

Leonard J. Mackiewicz — Born 1931, ordained 1957, died 1994. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1957; chaplain for Boy Scouts, 1957; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1958; St. Thomas, Wilmington, 1960; St. Hedwig, Wilmington, 1961; Holy Rosary, Claymont, 1964; St. Thomas, 1967; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1970; St. Michael the Archangel, Georgetown, 1971; St. Edmond, 1972; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1972; Holy Cross, Dover,

1975; chaplain, Delaware Correctional Institution, 1976; St. Polycarp, Smyrna, 1985; removed from ministry 1987.

Kenneth J. Martin — Born 1945, ordained 1989. *Assignments:* Holy Cross, Dover, 1989; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wilmington, 1990; St. Paul, Wilmington, 1991; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1991; Holy Family (residence), Newark, 1997; Church of the Holy Child (residence), Wilmington, 1998; removed from ministry 2001; resides in New Jersey.

Joseph A. McGovern — Born 1949, ordained 1979. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, 1978; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1979; St. Catherine of Siena, Wilmington, 1980; St. John the Baptist/Holy Angels, Newark, 1983; removed from ministry 1986; resides in Philadelphia.

Walter D. Power — Born 1918, ordained 1952, died 1998. *Assignments:* St.

Francis de Sales, Salisbury, 1952; St. Helena, Bellefonte, 1954; director of Boy Scouts, 1956; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1957; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1960; chaplain, St. Gertrude Convent, Ridgely, Md., 1960; Sacred Heart, Chestertown, Md., 1964; Holy Name of Jesus, Pocomoke City, Md., 1968; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, 1969; Immaculate Conception, Elkton, 1979; retired 1983, with residence at Good Shepherd, Perryville.

Francis J. Rogers — Born 1954, ordained 1981. *Assignments:* Corpus Christi (deacon), 1980; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wilmington, 1981; St. Matthew, Wilmington, 1986; Holy Rosary, Claymont, 1989; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1992; Corpus Christi, Elsmere, 1995; removed from ministry 2003; last known address, Wilmington, Del.

John A. Sarro — Born 1941, ordained 1979. *Assignments:* Worked in missions as religious-order priest until 1983; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bear, 1983; St. Helena, Bellefonte, 1990; removed from ministry 1998; resides in a monitored religious community in Maryland.

Carmen D. Vignola — Born 1946, ordained 1972, died 1989. *Assignments:* Holy Cross, Dover (deacon), 1972; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1972; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1978; Our Lady of Fatima, New Castle, 1983; St. Joseph, Middletown, 1984; Holy Cross, Dover, 1987.

Charles W. Wiggins — Born 1957, ordained 1985. *Assignments:* Our Lady of Fatima, New Castle, 1985; Parish of the Resurrection, Wilmington, and chaplain at St. Mark's High School, 1986; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, 1987; St. John, Milford, 1991; St. John the

Baptist/Holy Angels, Newark, 1992; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Secretary, Md., 1993; Holy Family, Newark, 1994; Holy Spirit, New Castle, 1997; removed from ministry 2003; resides in Norwood, Pa.

PRIESTS OF OTHER DIOCESES

Paul Calamari — Born 1944, ordained 1980 for Archdiocese of New Orleans. *Assignments in Diocese of Wilmington:* St. Mary of the Assumption, Hockessin, 1997; Holy Cross, Dover, 1999; chaplain in hospital ministry with residence at St. Peter, New Castle, 2000; removed from ministry 2003; last known address, Pennsylvania.

Gerard C. Smit — Born 1924, ordained 1950 for Diocese of Lake Charles, La. *Assignments in Diocese of Wilmington:* Immaculate Conception, Elkton, 1987; removed from ministry 1996; last known address, Bear, Del.

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