

THE DIOCESE OF DULUTH

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the website for the Diocese of Duluth. We hope you will visit often to stay abreast of the news and information for the Catholic Church in northeastern Minnesota.

Bishop Sirba releases names of credibly accused priests

As part of the Diocese of Duluth's ongoing efforts to foster safe environments for children and young people, Bishop Paul D. Sirba released on Dec. 31, 2013, information about clergy members who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of young persons while serving or residing in the Duluth Diocese. Included in the release are clergy members who served as diocesan priests as well as clergy from other dioceses or religious orders who at one time worked or resided in the Duluth Diocese. Despite our best efforts to make sure our information is accurate and complete, we know that it may include errors or be incomplete. We ask that anyone who believes they have information about any instance of child sexual abuse involving any member of the clergy to contact their local law enforcement and [the diocese or a diocesan assistance coordinator](#).

- [A list of names of those credibly accused](#)
- [Written form of statement delivered by Bishop Sirba at the press conference](#)
- [A Q&A on the Dec. 31 disclosure](#)
- [A Q&A on the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#)
- [A glossary of terms used in the John Jay Study](#)

BISHOP PAUL SIRBA: [Amid joyful celebrations, wounds are reopened](#)

LAWSUIT: Diocese official releases statement in response to lawsuit filed Dec. 9. Please see the document [here](#).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Diocese of Duluth has released its audited financial reports. Please see the document [here](#).

COMPUTER SECURITY: The Diocesan Technology Committee offers

Are you the victim of sexual misconduct? Click here for more information >

The Northern Cross

Read this monthly newspaper online >

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Duluth Area Catholic Schools

Faith and knowledge together.

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some best-practices guidance for computer systems [here](#).

CREDIBLE ACCUSATION OF ABUSE: The Diocese of Duluth announces that a retired diocesan priest, Father Cornelius Kelleher, has recently been credibly accused in the sexual abuse of a minor female during his time as pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Chisholm from 1975 to 1986. When the accusation was made, Father Kelleher was immediately removed from any public ministry and is no longer able to function as a priest in his retirement. He retired July 11, 2012. There are, at present, no formal criminal charges or litigation in connection with this accusation. Read the press release [here](#). If you are a victim of sexual misconduct, please see reporting information [here](#). If you would like to read the diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy and Code of Pastoral Conduct, please click [here](#).

THE NORTHERN CROSS: The November issue of The Northern Cross is available [here](#).

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The Diocesan Implementation Committee has released an [Implementation Handbook](#) for parishes undergoing transitions as a result of the Strategic Plan for the next five years which was approved earlier this year. That document and its supporting materials, along with the complete strategic plan, are available on the Strategic Planning [documents section](#) of the website.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: There is a lot going on for [diocesan youth](#) and [young adults](#).

VOCATIONS: Have you ever wondered if God is calling you to the priesthood, permanent diaconate or religious life? If you want to take your discernment to the next step, talk to our [vocations team](#).

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: To access and complete the online youth protection training course, click [here](#).

Fiat Voluntas Tua: "Thy Will be Done." Matthew 6:10



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Sexual Misconduct

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct by a volunteer, an employee or a member of the clergy and you need to talk with someone about your feelings of **betrayal or hurt due to this abuse, exploitation or harassment,**

We urge you to:

- 1) Contact civil authorities
- 2) Contact the Diocese
- 3) Contact a Diocesan Assistance Coordinator

We are open to and respect your complaint.

While diocesan representatives are open to receiving your complaint, you may feel more comfortable contacting civil authorities first. Both justice and compassion, however, call us as diocesan officials to respond to the harm you or someone you know has experienced from a person in a position of trust. We sincerely want to listen and address the hurt that may have occurred because of the improper exercise of pastoral care.

Please know your complaint will be heard in confidence and only those who have a right to know will be informed. Even if civil authorities are involved, your complaint may go before the Diocesan Review Board in accord with our [Sexual Misconduct Policy and Code of Pastoral Conduct](#).

Contacts:

Diocese of Duluth
218-724-9111

Diocese Assistance Coordinator

Mr. Tab Baumgartner: 218-249-5495
218-728-1875

Mrs. Dayle Peterson: 218-724-5310

Mrs. Esther Reagan: 218-820-9220

Diocese of Duluth

2830 E. 4th Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Fiat Voluntas Tua: "Thy Will be Done." Matthew 6:10



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Clergy with credible claims against them concerning sexual abuse of a young person

As part of the Diocese of Duluth's ongoing efforts to foster safe environments for children and young people, Bishop Paul D. Sirba released on December 31, 2013 information about clergy members who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of young persons while serving or residing in the Duluth Diocese. Included in the release are clergy members who served as diocesan priests as well as clergy from other dioceses or religious orders who at one time worked or resided in the Duluth Diocese.

Despite our best efforts to make sure our information is accurate and complete, we know that it may include errors or be incomplete. We ask that anyone who believes they have information about any instance of child sexual abuse involving any member of the clergy to contact their local law enforcement and the diocese or a diocesan assistance coordinator. Contact information for the diocese and its coordinators is listed in the diocesan newspaper and on the diocesan website.

The list below includes those clergy members whose names were provided to the John Jay Study conducted in 2004, one diocesan priest against whom credible claims have been made subsequent to the compilation of the John Jay list and four non-diocesan clergy who worked or resided in the diocese and who are the subject of allegations made against other institutions. The names included in the John Jay Study have had credible accusations made against them which, for purposes of the study, was a standard defined to be "not implausible." An allegation was considered "implausible" only if it could not possibly have happened under the given circumstances.

1. Rev. Kirby Blanchard

Date of birth: 11/16/1928

Date of ordination: 5/30/1953

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Duluth – 7/ 22/1953 – 1/ 7/1965

Pastor: Our Lady of Fatima Church, Garrison – 1/ 7/19 65 – 8/24/1966

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Deerwood – 1/7/1965 – 8/24/1966

Pastor: St. Augustine's Church, Cohasset – 8/24/1966 – 2/ 27/1969

Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Deer River – 8/24/1966 – 2/27/1969

Pastor: St. Christopher Church, Nisswa – 2/27/1969 – 3/17/1971

Pastor: St. Alice Church, Pequot Lakes – 2/ 27/1969 – 3/17/1971

Pastor: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Pine River – 2/ 27/1969 – 3/17/1971

Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Duluth – 3/17/1971 – 6/1/1976

Chaplain: St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd – 9/1/1976 – 12/5/1993

Retired: 12/ 5/1993

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 12/27/1995

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 8/11/2006

2. Rev. Louis Brouillard

Date of birth: 07/27/1921

Date of ordination: 12/17/1948

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Temporary Administrator: St. Joseph, Beroun - 7/27/1981 – 7/11/1984

Pastor: St. Mary, Kewatin - 7/11/1984 – 11/12/1985

Pastor: St. Anne, Kelly Lake - 7/11/1984 – 11/12/1985

Diocese or religious order: Priest of the Diocese of Agana, Guam

Date removed from ministry: 11/12/1985

Current location: Pine City, MN

Current status: Not in ministry, Faculties revoked

3. Rev. Victor Chateauvert, MSF

Date of birth: 5/25/1919

Date of ordination: 8/25/1973

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Pastor: Holy Family, Hillman – 6/1/1982 – 12/28/1992

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Holy Family Missionaries

Date removed from ministry: 12/28/1992 – Returned to Order

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 3/3/1999

4. Rev. Leonard Colston

Date of birth: 10/10/1936

Date of ordination: 1980

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Deacon: Asst. at St. Michael's Church, Duluth – 6/6/1979 – 5/17/1980

Asst. Pastor: St. Francis Church, Brainerd – 6/18/1980 – 10/14/1981

Administrator: St. Louis, Floodwood, & missions – 10/14/1981 – 9/9/1983

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 9/6/1986 Resigned from the Diocese of Duluth

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 11/4/2004

5. Rev. Raymond Cossette

Date of birth: 12/24/1929

Date of ordination: 6/4/1955

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor - Blessed Sacrament Church, Hibbing – 8/10/1955 – 8/16/1962

Instructor, Dean of Discipline, Athletic Director, Principal, Chaplain - Duluth Cathedral High School;
Duluth – 8/16/1962 – 7/21/1965

Chaplain: Carmel Heights, Duluth – 8/16/1962 – 7/21/1965

Superintendent: Cathedral High School – 7/21/1965 – 8/24/1966

Pastor: St. Peter's Church, Duluth – 8/24/1966 – 9/9/1969

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools: 8/24/66-9/9/69

Pastor: St. John's Church, Biwabik – 9/9/1969 – 7/29/1975

Chaplain: Brainerd State Hospital - 7/29/75 – 1/1 1995

Administrator: Holy Family Church, Hillman – 1/4/1993 – 12/29/1994

Retired: 1/1/1995

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: Re-investigation initiated

Current location: Brainerd, MN

Current status: Retired

6. Rev. Frederick Fox

Date of birth: 08/28/1926

Date of ordination: 7/7/1952

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 7/30/1952 – 9/14/1956

School: Catholic University of America – 9/14/1956 – 7/5/1957

Asst. Pastor: St. John the Evangelist Church, Duluth – 7/5/1957 – 1/18/1965

Director: St. James Children's Home, Duluth 1/18/1965 -8/19/1970

On Leave: to work with Family Services-Duluth Drug Abuse Program 12/13/1970

Retirement: 6/1/1987

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 1/28/1988

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 6/17/1999

7. Rev. John Golobich

Date of birth: 03/03/1923

Date of ordination: 6/5/1948

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: Blessed Sacrament Church, Hibbing – 8/5/1948 – 8 /10/1955

Pastor: St. Michael's Church, Kerrick -8/10/1955 – 11/13/1958

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Lakewood – 11/13/1958 – 2/4/1960

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Gnesen - 11/13/1958 – 2/ 4/1960

Administrator: St. Martin's Church, Tower – 2/4/1960 – 4/ 28/1960

Pastor: St. Martin's Church, Tower – 4/28/1960 – 6/29/1965

Pastor: Finland Air Station – 6/29/1965 – 7/1/1981

Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Silver Bay – 6/ 29/1965 – 7/1/1981

Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Duluth – 7/1/1981 – 7/11/1984

Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 7/11/1984 – 7/14/1993

Administrator: St. Elizabeth Church, Duluth – 7/12/2001 – 1/15/2002

Retired: 7/14/1993

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: Reprimanded – inappropriate behavior involving hugging and kissing

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 6/5/2011

8. Rev. Ralph Goniea, OMI

Date of birth: 12/23/1937

Date of ordination: 1963

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. Jean's, Duluth – 9/1/1965 – 12/22/1966

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Date removed from ministry: Cleric no longer in diocese at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 3/24/2003

9. Rev. Robert Klein

Date of birth: 10/17/1931

Date of ordination: 6/2/1956

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Duluth – 8/17/1956 – 9/27/1956

Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Duluth – 8/29/1957 – 6/29/1965

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Gnesen – 6/29/1965 – 3/23/1966

Pastor: St. Peter's Church, Duluth – 9/9/1969 – 6/16/1970

Assoc. Pastor: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Duluth – 6/16/1970 – 3/1/1976

Director Office of Education: 9/1972 – 6/1980

Director of Liturgy: 1981 - 1983

Leave: Unassigned, Disability Leave – 8/1/1983

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 9/18/1987

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 2/16/2000

10. Rev. Mark Makowski

Date of birth: 10/31/1956

Date of ordination: 6/7/1987

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Ely – 7/15/1987 - 7/13/1988

Assoc. Pastor: St. Francis Church, Brainerd – 7/13/1988 – 2/14/1989

Pastoral Administrator: St. Benedict's Church, Duluth – 2/15/1989 – 7/18/1990

Pastor: St. Benedict's Church, Duluth – 7/18/1990 – 7/14/1993

Pastor: Queen of Peace Church, Hoyt Lakes – 7/14/1993 – 9/1/1993

Pastor: St. John's Church, Grand Marais – 9/1/1993 – 1/12/1995

Pastor: Holy Rosary Church, Grand Portage – 9/1/1993 – 1/12/1995

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 1/12/1995

Current location: Sun City, AZ

Current status: Not in ministry, Faculties revoked

11. Rev. (Thomas) Gregory Manning

Date of birth: 05/25/1918

Date of ordination: 3/25/1944

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Chisholm – 4/28/1944 – 7/25/1946

Asst. Pastor: St. John the Evangelist Church, Duluth – 7/25/1946 – 7/20/1950

Pastor: St. Louis Church, Floodwood, & missions of Goodland & Warba – 7/20/1950 – 7/22/1953

Pastor: St. John the Baptist Church, Biwabik – 7/22/1953 – 10/16/1957

Left Diocese: 12/1/1957

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 10/16/1957

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 8/15/1979

12. Rev. John Nicholson

Date of birth: 01/23/1918

Date of ordination: 6/5/1948

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 6/24/1948 – 7/22/1953

Director: Diocesan Director of Scouting – 8/5/1948 – 5/2/1961

Asst. Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Grand Rapids – 7/22/1953 – 4/4/1956

Pastor: St. John's Church, Hill City & Swatara – 4/4/1956 – 4/28/1960

Administrator, St. Mary's Church, Deer River, and

mission of St. Augustine, Cohasset – 10/8/1959 – 4/28/1960

Administrator: St. John's Church, Hill City & mission of Swatara – 4/28/1960 – 6/29/1960

Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Deer River and St. Augustine, Cohasset – 4/28/1960 – 8/24/1966

Pastor: St. Rose Church, Proctor – 8/24/1966 – 1/6/1970

Leave of absence: 1/6/1970 – 8/18/1970

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Deerwood – 8/18/1970 – 12/6/1988

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: Deceased

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 12/6/1988

13. Rev. Dennis Puhl

Date of birth: 03/28/1947

Date of ordination: 6/15/1974

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Co-pastor: Holy Spirit Church, Virginia – 7/1/1974 – 7/15/1978

Pastor: St. Casimir's Church, Cloquet and mission at Cromwell – 7/15/1978 – 7/15/1979

Pastor: Mission at Saginaw – 7/15/1979 – 11/1/1980

Sick Leave: 11/1/1980

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry:

7/15/1986 signed a statement terminating priestly ministry and affiliation with Diocese of Duluth

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 12/11/1995

14. Rev. Thomas Stack

Date of birth: 05/11/1914

Date of ordination: 3/25/1944

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Virginia – 4/20/1944 – 12/14/1950

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Gnesen and

St. Joseph's Church, Lakewood – 12/14/1950 – 8/10/1955

Pastor: new parish, Hoyt Lakes – 8/10/1955 – 9/29/1964

Pastor: Good Shepherd Church, Duluth – 9/29/1964 – 1/6/1968

Pastor: St. Cecilia's Church, Nashwauk – 1/6/1968 – 9/27/1972

Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Ely – 9/27/1972 – 8/1/1973

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Duluth – 8/1/1973 – 9/27/1983

Pastor: Queen of Peace Church, Hoyt Lakes – 9/27/1983 – 2/13/1987

Benedictine Health Center: 2/13/1987 – 2/24/1987

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 2/24/1987

15. Rev. Joseph Thibaudeau, OMI

Date of birth: 10/17/1869

Date of ordination: 8/15/1896

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

St. Jean's, Duluth - 6/30/1910 – ?/1943

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 1946, Manitoba, Canada

16. Rev. Stephen Toporowitz

Date of birth: 5/13/1914

Date of ordination: 6/7/1941

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Duluth – 7/9/1941- 9/4/1941

Pastor: St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Duluth – 9/4/1941 – 10/12/1944

Pastor: Willow River and Split Rock – 10/17/1944 – 6/10/1964
(Split Rock attached to Sturgeon Lake 4/20/1960)

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Deerwood
and mission of Our Lady of Fatima, Garrison – 6/10/1964 – 1/7/1965

Chaplain: St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd – 1/7/1965 – 8/24/1966

Pastor: St. John's Church, Virginia – 8/24/1966 – 6/16/1969

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 6/16/1969

17. Rev. Angelo Zankl, OSB

Date of birth: 04/19/1901

Date of ordination: 5/29/1926

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

St. Clement's, Duluth – 7/18/1951 – 8/8/1967

Chaplain: St. Scholastica Priory – 10/1/1974 – 5/30/1987

Left the Diocese: 5/30/1987

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Order of St. Benedict⁰³

Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 7/12/2007

18. UN-NAMED ACCUSED PERSON NO LONGER IN MINISTRY

The name of a former priest was included in the list provided to the John Jay Study solely on the basis of a single vague and ambiguous allegation that did not identify the priest by name. A subsequent investigation did not produce any further information or corroboration. This individual voluntarily left the priesthood prior to and not related to the allegation. As a result, the diocese is re-investigating this matter but is not releasing the former priest's name at this time.

Rev. Cornelius Kelleher

Date of birth: 9/9/1932

Date of ordination: 6/17/1956

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 9/14/1956 – 9/16/1959

Asst. Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Crosby – 9/16/1959 – 9/22/1960

Asst. Pastor: Holy Family Church, Eveleth – 9/22/1960 – 9/24/1966

Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Cook,
and Mission of St. Bridget in Greaney – 8/24/1966 – 9/9/1969

Pastor: Mission Gnesen – 9/9/1969 – 9/21/1970

Pastor: Mission Lakewood – 9/9/1969 – 9/21/1970

Pastor: St. Benedict's Church, Duluth – 9/9/1969 – 6/17/1975

Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Chisholm – 6/17/1975 – 7/11/1986

Pastor: St. Andrew's Church, Brainerd – 7/11/1986 – 7/16/1997

Pastor: St. Patrick's Church, Hinckley and
St. Joseph's Church, Beroun – 7/16/1997 – 7/11/2012

Retired: July 11, 2012

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest

Date removed from ministry: 10/2/2012

Current location: Proctor, MN

Current status: Removed from ministry, Faculties revoked

Rev. J. Vincent Fitzgerald, OMI

Date of birth: 12/9/1919

Date of ordination: 5/28/1950

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Pastor: St. Michael's, Northome; Our Lady of the Snows, Bigfork and
St. Theresa, Effie – 11/13/1957 – 9/10/1961

Pastor: Holy Cross, Orr – 9/1/1963 – 9/1/1964

Pastor: Immaculate Conception, Nett Lake – 9/1/1963 – 8/2/1966

Pastor: St. Catherine, Squaw Lake – 8/1/1968 – 12/12/1979

Asst. Pastor: St. Catherine, Squaw Lake – 12/12/1979 – 10/28/1983

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 2009

Rev. Othmar Hohmann, OSB

Date of birth: 1/28/1900

Date of ordination: 6/7/1931

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Asst. Pastor: St. Joseph's Church, Grand Rapids – 8/1/1966-1976

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Order of St. Benedict

Date removed from ministry: Retired in 1976

Current location: Deceased

Current status: Died 1/24/1980

Rev. Richard Jeub

Date of birth: 2/21/1940

Date of ordination: 1966

Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:

Associate priest, St. Joseph, Hopkins, 1966-1967;

Associate priest, Our Lady of Grace, Edina, 1967-1970

Associate priest, St. Mark, St. Paul, 1970-1976;

Associate priest, Christ the King, Minneapolis, 1976-1978;

Chaplain, Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, 1978-1982;

Chaplain, Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, 1978-1982;

Pastor, St. Kevin, Minneapolis, 1981-1990;

Associate priest, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, 1996-1997;

Associate priest, Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence, Faribault, 1997-2000;

Associate priest, St. Rose of Lima, Roseville, 2000-2002;

Retired, 2002

Diocese or religious order: Priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002

Current location: Crosby, Minn.

Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Rev. Brennen Maiers, OSB

Date of birth: 4/27/1936

Date of ordination: 6/1/1963

Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:

Chaplain: St. Scholastica Priory – 1/ 4/1991 – 4/1996

Adjunct Chaplain: St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth – 1/4/1991 -4/1996

Chaplain: Federal Prison Camp – 6/1/1992 – 4/1996

Diocese or religious order:

Priest of the Order of St. Benedict

Date permanently removed from ministry: 6/2002

Current location: St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN

Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

**Statement of Bishop Paul Sirba
Diocese of Duluth
December 31, 2013**

“As part of our ongoing efforts to address issues related to clergy sexual misconduct and to make our parishes, schools, religious education and youth programs the safest possible places for the children of our community, we are releasing information today related to priests who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors in the diocese from 1950 to 2013.

“Much of this information is drawn from the John Jay Study, which was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2004 to study the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse. It also includes information regarding five additional clergy members.

“The release of this information underscores a sad truth that must be acknowledged: Over the last 65 years, a number of clergy members in the Diocese of Duluth have violated the sacred trust placed in them by children, youth and their families. These clergy have caused terrible harm to victims, to the victims’ families, to our community, to the Church and to the many, many good priests who faithfully carry out their duties to God’s people with love and generosity. Again, I offer my apology on behalf of the Church to all those who have been affected by clergy sexual abuse. I pledge once more that this Church stands with all those who seek to know the truth and to see justice done in these matters.

“The names released today will be published on our diocesan website and in our diocesan newspaper, the *Northern Cross*, which goes to every Catholic household in the Diocese. Our hope in releasing the names is to bring hope and healing to victims of clergy sexual abuse. Jesus, Our Savior, brings hope where there is hurt.

“Since 1992, the Diocese of Duluth has had in place a sexual misconduct policy that has been conscientiously enforced. The United States bishops issued their Charter for the Protection of

Children and Young People in June 2002. The Diocese of Duluth is committed to upholding these principles, to assisting in the healing of any victim of sexual misconduct by a member of the clergy and to preventing this terrible crime from happening in the future.

“If anyone hearing my words today have suffered such abuse, I ask you to report it to your civil authorities and to the diocese. We are located at 2830 E. 4th Street, our phone number is (218) 724-9111. You can also contact one of our diocesan Assistance Coordinators whose contact information is available in *The Northern Cross*, and on the diocesan website, www.dioceseduluth.org.

“I’m happy to take any questions you may have.”

Q&A on the disclosure of names

Q. Will the names be posted online? If so, where?

A. Yes. Information about clergy members who have credible claims of sexual abuse of a minor that have been substantiated will be posted on our website at www.dioceseduluth.org.

Q. The diocese was reluctant to release this list. Why are you choosing to disclose the names of offending priests now?

A. Appropriate disclosure is important if we are to do all that we can to keep children safe, help victims of abuse heal and maintain the trust and confidence of our communities. Most importantly, we believe these actions will further serve our primary goal of protecting minors. As the diocese reported a few weeks ago, the list many have sought was provided by the diocese to the John Jay Study in 2004 and used, for research purposes, to compile a nationwide summary of credible claims of clergy abuse of minors covering the time period of 1950 to 2002. It was not meant to be a definitive list and is an imperfect means for identifying those credibly accused. We have worked to try to name those credibly accused without harming those who may have been wrongly accused. In one case, the name of a former priest was included in the list provided to the John Jay Study solely on the basis of a single vague and ambiguous allegation that did not identify the priest by name. A subsequent investigation did not produce any further information or corroboration. This individual voluntarily left the priesthood prior to and not related to the allegation. As a result, the diocese is re-investigating this matter but is not releasing the former priest's name at this time.

Q. Media reporting has suggested there were 17 names on the list, and the diocese has released 17 names but said one is not included. Where did the extra name come from?

A. For reasons that are not entirely clear, the figure of 17 names on the list came into widespread use, but it was not correct. The list provided to the John Jay Commission had 18 priests.

Q. Is this the extent of the disclosure of names? Is it possible more names could be added?

A. The list is complete to the best of our knowledge, but we will amend and update it as necessary.

Q. Are these priests being supported financially or in other ways by the diocese?

A. All priests are legally entitled to receive pension benefits that have been accrued. Financial support varies depending on the individual circumstance. The diocese has an obligation in church law to ensure that no priest is left destitute. All of the living priests who have not been laicized are receiving their pension and retirement healthcare.

Q. Have any of these men been permanently removed from the priesthood (laicized)?

A. None of these men is in active ministry. Most of them are dead, and some have been laicized.

Q. What is the threshold for removing a priest from active ministry?

A. If the diocese receives a credible claim of sexual abuse of a minor, a priest is removed from active ministry. These restrictions stay in place until an investigation determines whether or not the claim is substantiated. If a claim is determined to be substantiated, he will remain restricted until any criminal or canonical proceedings are concluded.

Q. What should a person do if he or she recognizes a name on the list and has concerns about further risks the man may pose?

A. Any concerns or information should be directed to the proper civil authorities, such as the local police. In addition, we encourage anyone with such information to notify the diocese at (218) 724-9111 or to contact one of the assistance coordinators listed in the diocesan newspaper or on the diocesan website.

Q. How much has the diocese paid to victims to settle civil claims related to clergy sexual abuse of minors? How have those settlements been funded?

A. Relating to the allegations covered by the John Jay Study, the diocese has paid out approximately \$780,000 to victims, about \$738,000 in settlements and about \$42,000 in counseling. A significant amount of that was covered by our insurance carriers.

Q. How many individuals have civil suits pending against the diocese regarding sexual abuse of a minor?

A. Currently, there are two lawsuits involving two people alleging that they were sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy who, at one time, had an assignment within our diocese.

Questions and answers were provided by the Diocese of Duluth.

What is the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People'?

Q. What is the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People"?

A. The Charter is a comprehensive set of procedures established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The Charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of further acts of abuse. It directs action in all the following matters:

- * Creating a safe environment for children and young people;
- * Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors;
- * Making prompt and effective responses to allegations;
- * Cooperating with civil authorities;
- * Disciplining offenders; and
- * Providing for means of accountability for the future to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board.

Q. Where can I read it?

A. The Charter is available for download from the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection website.

Q. How does the Charter define a "minor"?

A. In both civil and canon law, a minor is anyone under the age of 18. Until 1994, under canon law, a minor was considered any person under the age of 16. In 1994, canon law was changed for dioceses of the USCCB so that anyone under the age of 18 was considered to be a minor. In 2001, it changed for the universal Church. Also covered under the Charter is anyone over the age of 18 who habitually lacks the use of reason and therefore is considered equivalent to a minor.

Q. What if the abuse occurred prior to the enactment of the Charter?

A. Any act of sexual abuse of a minor which occurred prior to the Charter being implemented but is brought forward now will be considered relevant and subject to the Charter. The Charter pertains to acts of abuse in the past, present and future.

Q. How is compliance with the Charter monitored?

A. In June 2003, the Office (now Secretariat) of Child and Youth Protection began an audit process of all dioceses throughout the United States. The audit is used to determine if the diocese is implementing the practices required by the Charter. An "Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter" is prepared by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

used in the John Jay Study

Allegation: Any credible accusation that is not *implausible* (see definition below). This should include allegations that did not result in a criminal, civil or diocesan investigation and allegations that are unsubstantiated.

Clergy or Cleric: Any current or former, living or deceased, diocesan, clergy, religious Cardinal, Arch/Bishop/Eparch, Priest, Deacon or Seminarian. Religious orders include societies, congregations and male, clerical communities. This does not include lay people, brothers or nuns within the Church.

Diocese: For purposes of clarity and flow, when the term diocese is used in a question, it will be understood to refer to diocesan, eparchial and religious orders, societies and communities.

False allegation: an allegation that was proven to be untruthful and fabricated.

Implausible: Any allegation that could not possibly have happened under the given circumstances (e.g., an accusation is made against a priest who was deceased at the time of the alleged offense). Erroneous information does not necessarily make the allegation implausible (e.g., a priest arrived at the diocese a year after the alleged abuse, but all other facts of the case are credible and the alleged victim might have mistaken the date).

Sexual abuse: As per the Charter, sexual abuse includes contacts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult. A child is abused whether or not this activity involves explicit force, whether or not it involves genital or physical contact, whether or not it is initiated by the child, and whether or not there is discernible harmful outcome.

This glossary accompanied the John Jay Study survey to clarify terms for reporting purposes.