SHINING LIGHT ON DARKNESS

ARCHDIOCESE RELEASES LIST OF ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY WITH SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

PAGE 3
LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL

July 26, 2019
Dear Friends in Christ,

Last September, I promised to publish the names of clergy who have had substantiated claims of sexual abuse of minors against them. Today, I am fulfilling that promise.

It will be painful for all of us to see the names of clergy accused of behavior we can barely allow ourselves to imagine. But publishing their names is the right thing to do.

For years, victims have carried the burden of the crimes committed against them. In talking with many of them, I have witnessed the devastating impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Publishing these names will not change the past. Nothing will. But it is an important step in the long process of healing. And we are committed to that healing.

This list, which is published on the archdiocesan website at archstl.org/list, is the result of a long and extensive investigation conducted by a third-party agency staffed with skilled investigators, formerly of the FBI and state law enforcement. The results were provided to the Archdiocesan Review Board — a board composed of a majority of lay members who are not employed by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Review Board produced the list and shared it with me for final review. I have accepted the results of this investigative process.

Please be assured that no priest or deacon of the Archdiocese of St. Louis against whom there has been a substantiated claim of sexual abuse of a minor is currently serving in ministry. Important facts regarding each member of the clergy who is named, including their status within the Church, are detailed on this list.

The list is also published in a special edition of our archdiocesan newspaper, St. Louis Review, and a copy of this edition is being circulated to most Catholic households in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, regardless of whether that household has a subscription. Additionally, the list is being shared with the Missouri Attorney General. The Archdiocese of St. Louis will continue to work in full transparency with the Attorney General’s office throughout its review of clergy personnel records, which is ongoing, to ensure that any new information regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy is considered and handled appropriately.

I strongly encourage anyone who has yet to share their story of abuse to please come forward to the local and state authorities. I also ask that anyone who knows of sexual abuse of minors or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 314-792-7704. The names of any additional clergy who are found to have substantiated claims of sexual abuse of minors against them, based on new information, will be added to this list. The archdiocese has many resources in place to support victims. Numerous steps have also been taken to strengthen and enhance procedures to ensure that our children are protected. More information about these initiatives and resources can be found on the website of the Archdiocese of St. Louis at archstl.org/promise.

I pray, and I ask you to pray with me, to our blessed Mother Mary: Mother of mercy, help us by your prayers. Help victims to heal. Help the Church to be purified. Help bishops and priests to repent, to return to Jesus with a purified faith, and become instruments of His salvation.

God continues to call all of us to Him through His Church. I ask all of you to join me in heartfelt prayer, with the Eucharist in mind, that this work will help bring peace to the victims and their families. I pray that He will help us all remain vigilant in righting past wrongs, fulfilling our Promise to Protect, and restoring trust in His Church, its leadership and His divine plan for salvation.

I pray that, in this moment, we will be rich in the healing power of Jesus, rise out of the darkness of this tomb, grow stronger in the light of His love and mercy, and praise Him unceasingly for His promise of eternal life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This special edition of the St. Louis Review was published to disseminate as widely as possible the names of clergy who have had substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. It also is intended to inform the faithful of the actions the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Church have taken to prevent such future abuse.

In addition to subscribers of the St. Louis Review, this special edition was distributed to all recipients of Catholic St. Louis magazine, our bi-monthly sister publication, which is distributed to more than 150,000 households. Aside from the list of clergy and the archbishop’s message to the faithful, most of the information in this special edition has been published in previous editions of the newspaper, on stlouisreview.com or on the archdiocesan website at archstl.org/promise.

Teak Phillips, Editor, St. Louis Review
Archdiocese releases list of clergy with substantiated accusations of sexual abuse of a minor

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has released a list of 64 clergy who have had substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Archbishop Robert J. Carlson released the names after an audit of clergy personnel files by former law enforcement investigators and the archdiocese’s local review board.

The list includes clergy ordained for the archdiocese as well as five clergy from other dioceses who once served in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The process of compiling the list began in February with a review of all priest personnel files, regardless whether there was an accusation of abuse against them. A consulting firm led by former FBI agent Kathleen McChesney identified the files of those who had substantiated allegations of the sexual abuse of minors. A substantiated allegation means that there was sufficient evidence to believe that the allegation was true.

The team reviewed 4,000 files. The Archdiocesan Review Board is composed primarily of lay people not employed by the Archdiocese of St. Louis and who represent a variety of disciplines and occupations pertinent to issues surrounding the sexual abuse of minors. The review board also reviewed the allegations.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis joins many other dioceses across the country that have released lists of clergy who have had substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. In Missouri, the dioceses of Jefferson City and Springfield-Cape Girardeau have published their lists, and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is in the process of forming its list.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis’ list is accurate to the best of officials’ knowledge; however, the archdiocese intends to update the list if additional information about an accusation is discovered, or if additional allegations of sexual abuse of a minor are found to be substantiated. Any changes to the list will be made online on the archdiocesan website at www.archstl.org/promise.

Following the 2002 revelation of child sexual abuse in the Church, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has taken numerous steps to strengthen its procedures to ensure that children are protected. The archdiocese also complies with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The charter also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. It was revised in 2005, 2011 and 2018.

Clergy of the Archdiocese of St. Louis with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, first allegation made prior to clergy death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Year of Ordination</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Babka</td>
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<td>1968</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Beckman</td>
<td>Dcn. Carl</td>
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Clergy from other dioceses who served in the Archdiocese of St. Louis with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor

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<th>No.</th>
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<td>McGrath</td>
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<td>Straub</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Zacheis</td>
<td>Dennis B.</td>
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Clergy with substantiated allegations related to child pornography

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Year of Ordination</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Hess</td>
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<td>1983</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Vatterott</td>
<td>William F.</td>
<td>2003</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These clergy are registered with the Missouri Sex Offenders Registry.
Talking with children about sexual abuse in the news

Having a conversation with your child or adolescent about sexual abuse, particularly within the Church setting, is daunting. Every parent must consider the best way to discuss the topic without scaring the child and ensuring the conversation is age-appropriate.

Below are some points to consider provided by the Office of Child and Youth Protection to help initiate a conversation with your child. Conversations like these offer opportunities to reinforce the teachings of the Church through the Safe Touch curriculum offered in Catholic education settings. Your child needs to know that adults in charge will always tell you or another safe adult when something happens that makes them feel uncomfortable, scared, or ashamed, regardless of whether it is the child’s experience.

Here are six steps to take:
1. Make sure you are composed before you talk to your child.
2. If you believe your child is aware of news concerning the Church and is asking questions that have not been asked or overload your child with information that is beyond his or her level of understanding.
3. Listen carefully to what your child is saying or asking.
4. Clarify concerns before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give more information than what the child needs.
5. Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked or overload your child with information that is beyond his or her level of understanding.
6. Assure your child that the adults who are in charge are doing everything possible to make sure they will be safe.

WHAT IS THE ARCHDIOCESE’S RESPONSE TO ABUSE?

The archdiocesan Safe Environment Program, managed by the Office of Child and Youth Protection, requires all adults and employees who work with or visit minors and/or vulnerable adults to complete the following policy requirements:

• Attend a two-hour training on the archdiocesan Code of Ethics and Child Protection.
• Convene a national conference on child protection.
• Attend a two-hour training on the archdiocesan Safe Environment program.

In the Safe Touch workshop, a top priority is taught to students in grades K-6 in archdiocesan schools and parishes about child protection policies so that they are prepared to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS • ABOUT THE ARCHDIOCESAN RESPONSE TO ABUSE

Spiritual healing could benefit those who have been abused

Catholic Renewal Center offers resource among numerous ministries

BY JENNIFER BRINKER
Archdiocese of St. Louis
JenniferBrinker@archstl.org

Jane Guenther holds firm the belief that where sin exists, grace abounds even more. Naturally, those who have been abused might respond in anger — where was God when this was happening? And that is a good and national conversation, Guenther said. Part of the healing process is working through the knowledge that it was God’s will. God was the one wanting the abuse to happen. Was God controlling the person who caused the hurt, either, because of the sin or the grace that was being offered? Jane Guenther holds firm the belief that where sin exists, grace abounds even more. Naturally, those who have been abused might respond in anger — where was God when this was happening? And that is a good and national conversation, Guenther said. Part of the healing process is working through the knowledge that it was God’s will. God was the one wanting the abuse to happen. Was God controlling the person who caused the hurt, either, because of the sin or the grace that was being offered? 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Amid abuse scandal, formation of Kenrick-Glennon seminarians evolves to foster a healthy environment

BY JENNIFER BRINKER
jbrinker@archstl.org
twitter: @jenniferbrinker

In J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Fellowship of the Ring,” protagonist Frodo Baggins shares his worry with Gandalf of the evil that follows him as he continues on the destined path with the coveted ring:

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” Frodo said.

“So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

In the scene, Gandalf reminds Frodo that even with the pain that comes in tumultuous times, it’s important to remain focused on the choices we have.

With the 2018 revelations of sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy, seminarians discerning the priesthood must similarly remain focused on how Christ is calling them to this vocation, amid the anger and sorrow that the faithful might be feeling in the Church right now.

“She is placed in a particular time and we are called by our Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him at a particular time and in a certain way,” said Kenrick-Glennon seminarian Charlie Archer, as he reflected on the quote from Tolkien’s work.

Sparked by a grand jury report released in Pennsylvania in August, the news of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and how it was handled by Church leaders has led to a response locally from Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, including an invitation to the Missouri Attorney General’s office to investigate archdiocesan files on allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy. A Mass of Reparation also was offered in September 2018 to pray for victims of abuse and forgiveness for the sins of clergy who have committed sins of sexual abuse of minors.

A second-year theologian from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Archer and several other seminarians shared their experiences of formation for the priesthood.

These seminarians were children in 2002 when an investigation by The Boston Globe led to widespread media coverage of the issue in the United States. So, for them, the 2018 revelations have been the first time they’ve contemplated this as adults. While each had their own feelings about the abuse scandal, they agreed that their focus remains on moving forward in their formation to become priests and through that, bringing healing to the Church.

“Seeing first-hand how damaging it is when shepherds are not good shepherds, it makes it clear how important the role (of clergy) is and how destructive it is when (the vocation) is not lived well,” said seminarian Dan Mauro.

In his “Before the Cross” column in the Sept. 3-9, 2018, issue in the St. Louis Review, Archbishop Carlson noted that seminarians today will spend their entire priesthood helping the Church to recover from sins that they did not commit.

Seminarian Michael Trummer said he anticipates he will spend a lot of his priesthood working toward restoring the reputation of the priesthood, as well as the Church. He’s reminded of his call to model Christ, who took on the sins of humanity when He died on the cross.

“He took on the punishment and dealt with the consequences of sins that He did not commit,” Trummer said.

Healthy environment

Kenrick-Glennon president-rector Father James Mason said the Church is going through a time of purification, and within that, seminarians must respond with a call to holiness.

“They’re being called to the priesthood at a time that it’s not popular,” said Father Mason, who was appointed to lead the seminary in 2015. “In that, there’s a grace — they’re doing it for souls and because they’re called by Jesus Christ.”

To support the call to holiness means fostering a healthy seminary environment in which men undergo a proper formation in response to their vocational calling. The news of retired Washington Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, who renounced his position in the College of Cardinals after allegations he harassed and abused seminarians, has raised questions about seminary life, including unchaste situations among clergy and seminarians, protections for young men studying for the priesthood against abuse of power and how they are being prepared to minister to the people of God. McCarrick was later removed from the priesthood.

Father Mason in 2006 published a paper in the Homiletic and Pastoral Review about the vice of a “culture of effeminacy.” At the time it was published, it was received as controversial, he said, but it’s a necessary topic that needs addressing within seminary life. “It’s about fostering a healthy masculinity,” he said. “It’s not a machismo or hardness, but also not an effeminacy or softness. We want to instill a healthy masculinity, which is being attacked in our society today, and it’s something that we have to address.”

Prior to a seminarian’s admittance into Kenrick-Glennon, he undergoes a psychological evaluation, which includes details of his mental and psychological health. The seminary has two full-time lay psychologists to assist in human development, and each man meets regularly with an in-house spiritual director and formation advisor. Additionally, the faculty, administration, formation advisors and psychologists meet several times a year to discuss the progress of each seminarian in every dimension of his formation, so that potential challenges can be identified and addressed.

Seminarians said that they have several ways to report to seminary leadership if they see something that doesn’t foster a healthy learning environment. Formation advisors, including the psychological and counseling services director and vice-rector, were several people they cited to whom they could bring any concerns.

Building alliances with the people of God

As a regular part of their formation, seminarians take specific classes to develop pastoral skills. In a recent pastoral counseling class, Theology I and II students learned from Suzanne Harvath, director of psychological and counseling services and professor of pastoral counseling, about “building alliances” with the people of God by developing an environment in which safety and confidentiality of the priest and those to whom he is ministering are both respected.

“The good thing in your work is that you’re never alone,” Harvath told them. “You have many advisors. Look at the parameters and discern.”

Harvath, who has been at the seminary for almost 29 years, said “there are many people involved in their formation, so they have the opportunity to seek out someone who is helpful to them. We have a really trusting environment there where they feel safe and can bring up things like these.

“When they’re delivering ministerial services, they have to be assertive about setting appropriate boundaries, to keep the people of God safe but also to keep their own ministry safe,” she said. “We are trying to train them to think first of the people of God and realize that doing so must provide mutually safe environments for those ministered to and those ministering.”

This article was published in a previous edition of the Review and has been updated for this special edition.
Pope Francis issues universal norms for reports of abuse of minors, seminarians and religious

Pope Francis promulgated the law May 9 via a motu proprio, titled, “Vos estis lux mundi” (“You are the light of the world”)
Catholic News Service

At the start of the 2019 spring assembly of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore, June 11-13, it was clear the bishops had a task at hand: to respond to the sexual abuse of minors crisis in the Church.

Several speakers addressing the group discussed the challenge ahead and the need for the bishops to be both transparent and reliant upon lay leadership. The bishops also examined plans to vote on procedures and policies in response to the abuse crisis, including some they had put aside during their fall general assembly in November at the Vatican’s request.

On June 13, they voted to implement the document “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (“You are the light of the world”), issued by Pope Francis in May 2019 to help the Catholic Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

The bishops also approved the document “Acknowledging Our Episcopal Commitments” and promised to hold themselves accountable to the commitments of the charter, including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse. The document says any codes of conduct in their respective dioceses regarding clergy apply to bishops as well.

They voted in favor of the item “protocol regarding available nonpenal restrictions on bishops,” which outlines what canonical options are available to bishops when a retired bishop resides or is removed “due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act.”

Their first action was a vote June 12 to authorize the implementation of a third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free telephone number and online. The system, which would be operated by an outside vendor contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, should be in place no later than May 31, 2020.

Background of the charter

At a historic meeting in June 2002, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops ordered dramatic changes to protect children throughout the U.S. Catholic Church, notably forbidding a second chance in ministry for any clergy who has ever sexually abused a minor.

After 11 hours of intense debate over two days, the bishops adopted a “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” that all dioceses must implement.

“For even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor — past, present or future — the offending priest or deacon will not remain in ministry and will not receive a future assignment,” it said.

The bishops voted 229-5 to adopt a series of implementing norms that have the binding character of law that must be followed by all U.S. dioceses.

When the 239-13 vote adopting the charter was announced, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, then-USCCB president, called the new document “one of the greatest efforts anywhere in addressing sexual abuse of minors.”

“From this day forward, no one known to have sexually abused a child will work in the Catholic Church in the United States,” he said.

The charter, he added, “ensures that young people are protected, that victims are truly listened to and assisted, that all priests are trustworthy and that all bishops act responsibly.”

In the opening presidential address, Bishop Gregory challenged the bishops to approach “perhaps the gravest crisis we have faced” in U.S. Catholic history with an attitude of “confession, contrition and resolve.”

He placed blame for the crisis on the bishops’ shoulders, saying it stems from “a profound loss of confidence by the faithful in our leadership as shepherds, because of our failures in addressing the crime of the sexual abuse of children and young people by priests and Church personnel.”

One of the major issues — debated for two-and-a-half hours in closed session and more briefly again in the open session — was whether priests or deacons with only one accusation in the distant past and exemplary service for many years following treatment should now be removed from ministry.

The bishops decided that the good of the Church — the restoration of credibility and trust — demanded a policy that will not allow any offender to return to any form of ministry.

They set laicization — dismissal from the clerical state — as the general norm, providing that if the priest or deacon does not consent to it, available Church procedures will be initiated to laicize him without his consent.

The charter adds, “If the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state has not been applied, the offender is to lead a life of prayer and penance. He will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly, to wear clerical garb or to present himself publicly as a priest.”

The charter mandated the creation of a new USCCB Office for Child and Youth Protection to help dioceses implement the charter, oversee what they do and report publicly diocesan evaluations every year.

Responsibility for overseeing the national office and reviewing its annual report before publication is to be in the hands of a National Review Board.

The charter mandates in every diocese a board composed mostly of lay people who are not in the Church’s employ, to investigate all allegations of sexual abuse of minors and to periodically review diocesan policies and procedures for possible improvement.

Every diocese is to have an “assistance coordinator to aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors” by anyone who works for the Church.

The charter sets rules for reporting allegations to civil authorities. It requires reporting abuse if the alleged victim is still a minor, and encourages reporting it if the victim is no longer a minor when he or she comes forward.

It opposes secrecy in legal settlements, saying a confidentiality agreement is forbidden unless the victim seeks it “for grave and substantial reasons,” which are then to be noted in the text of the agreement.

A key element for future protection of children is a mandate for “safe environment” programs to educate children, parents and Church personnel in sex abuse prevention and detection.

Background checks of all Church workers are required and screening procedures for priesthood candidates are to be reviewed and improved.

2019 audit results

The 16th annual report on diocesan compliance with the U.S. bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” shows a significant increase in the number of abuse allegations over the previous year’s report because of additional claims received in five New York dioceses after implementation of their Independent Reconciliation and Compensation programs in the last year.

Released May 31, 2019, the report for audit year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, states that 1385 victims of child sex abuse, including 26 minors, came forward with 1,455 allegations. In last year’s report, allegations were brought forward by more than 650 adults and 24 minors.

Twenty-six of the new allegations reported by dioceses and eparchies involved current minors and came from three different dioceses, the report said.

Of the other new allegations reported by dioceses and eparchies, 47 percent were said to have occurred or began before 1975; 43 percent between 1975 and 1999; and 5 percent since 2000. The most common time period for when these reported allegations occurred was 1975 to 1979, followed by 1970-1974.

More than half of new allegations were reported by religious institutions in the latest audit year, or 55 percent, are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1975; 41 percent occurred or began between 1975 and 1999; and 1 percent (two allegations) occurred or began after 2000.

Regarding the 26 allegations involving current minors, the report said that as of June 30, 2018, three claims were substantiated and the clergy were removed from ministry; seven were unsubstantiated; three were categorized as “unable to be proven”; investigations were still in process for six of these allegations; two were referred to a religious order; two were reported as unknown clerics; and three were not claims of sexual abuse, but were boundary violations.

In 2018, StoneBridge conducted on-site audits of 72 dioceses and eparchies, and collected data from 122 others. All dioceses/eparchies were found to be compliant except for the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., which, the report said, had not complied with article 7 of the charter requiring dioceses “to be open and transparent” in communications regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, “especially those parishes that may have been affected.”


This story is a compilation of three stories that appeared in previous editions of the St. Louis Review. It has been updated for this special edition.