Priests with credible claims against them of sexual abuse of a minor

Thomas Adamson
Date of birth: 7/12/1933 (Age 80)
Date of ordination: 1958
Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Diocese of Winona, 1958-1975;
- St. Leo the Great, St. Paul, 1975-1976;
- St. Boniface, St. Bonifacius, 1976;
- St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Paul Park, 1976-1979;
- Immaculate Conception, Columbia Heights, 1979-1980;
- Risen Savior, Apple Valley, 1981-1985;
- Returned to Diocese of Winona, 1985
Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Winona
Date removed from ministry: 1985
Current location: Rochester, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry from our archdiocese

John Brown
Birthdate: 7/2/1920 (Age: 93)
Date of ordination: 1948
Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Timothy, Maple Lake, 1948-1949;
- Associate priest, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, 1949-1950;
- Associate priest, St. John, St. Paul, 1950-1951;
- Associate priest, Hopkins, 1951-1956;
- Chaplain, U.S. Army, 1956-1958;
- Associate priest, St. Mary, LeCenter, 1958-1960;
- Temporary administrator, St. Mary, LeCenter, 1960;
- Administrator, St. Mary, Waverly, 1960-1963;
- Pastor, St. Mary, Waverly, 1963-1964;
- Pastor, St. Anthony of Padua, Minneapolis, 1964-1966;
- Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Marysville, 1966-1970;
- Pastor, Sacred Heart, Faribault, 1970-1978;
- Pastor, Annunciation, Hazelwood, 1981-1990
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Mapleton, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Notes regarding disclosure
Included in this disclosure are clergy members from other dioceses or religious orders who at one time worked in the archdiocese and were accused of engaging in sexual abuse of minors in our archdiocese, to the extent we have reliable and sufficient information to determine whether the claim was credible and could be substantiated. These disclosures will indicate that the individuals are non-diocesan clergy. We may not be able to report on the present status of such clergy members because the archdiocese does not always have access to such information since they are under the authority of their respective diocese or religious order.

Also, please note: Despite our best efforts to provide accurate information, our listings at this time may include some errors or omissions. The archdiocese requests that anyone with additional information or corrections regarding clergy members that are or should be subject to disclosure, to contact Greta Sawyer, the archdiocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator at 651-291-4497.

Dennis Kampa
Date of birth: 5/31/1932 (Age 81)
Date of ordination: 1968
Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Immaculate Conception, Faribault, 1968-1969;
- Associate priest, St. Mark, St. Paul, 1969-1972;
- Associate priest, St. Joseph, West St. Paul, 1972-1974;
- Associate priest, Holy Family, St. Louis Park, 1974-1976;
- Associate priest, Holy Trinity, South St. Paul, 1976-1980;
- Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul, Osseo, 1980-1989;
- Administrator, St. Michael, Pine Island, 1989-1990;
- Administrator, St. Michael, Kenyon, 1989-1990;
- Pastor, St. Michael, Pine Island, 1990-2002;
- Retired, 2002
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Victoria, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Robert Kapoun
Date of birth: 12/1/1938 (Age 75)
Date of ordination: 1964
Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Holy Redeemer, Montgomery, 1964-1967;
- Associate priest, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, 1968-1969;
- Associate priest, Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence, Faribault, 1997-2000;
- Associate priest, St. Rosa of Lima, Roseville, 2000-2002;
- Retired, 2002
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Deceased

- 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. Rosa of Lima, Roseville, 2000-2002;
- Retired, 2002
**Rudolph Henrich**

**Date of birth:** 5/19/1920

**Date of ordination:** 1944

**Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:**
- Associate priest, St. Joseph, St. Paul, 1939-1944;
- Associate priest, Most Holy Trinity, Winsted, 1937-1938;
- Associate priest, St. Mark, Shakopee, 1938;
- Chaplain, State Training School for Boys, Red Wing, 1938-1942;
- Chaplain, U.S. Navy, 1942-1946;
- Chaplain, State Training School for Boys, Red Wing, 1946-1952;
- Chaplain, U.S. Forces, 1952-1954;
- Pastoral, St. Boniface, Stewart (New Ulm), 1954-1957;
- Pastoral, St. Margaret Mary, Minneapolis, 1957-1976

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

**Date permanently removed from ministry:** 1990

**Current location:** Victoria, Minn.

**Current status:** Permanently removed from ministry

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**Robert Kapoun**

**Date of birth:** 12/1/1938 (Age 75)

**Date of ordination:** 1954

**Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:**
- Associate priest, Holy Redeemer, Montgomery, 1954-1957;
- Associate priest, St. Kevin, Minneapolis, 1957-1958;
- Associate priest, St. Raphael, Crystal, 1971-1974;
- Chaplain, Home of the Good Shepherd, St. Paul, 1974-1976;
- Medical leav, 1976-1977;
- Pastor, St. Patrick, Cedar Lake, 1977-1984;
- Chaplain, St. Catherine, Spring Lake, 1977-1984;
- Pastor, St. Scholastica, Heidelberg, 1984-1996;
- Chaplain, St. Joseph, Lakeville, 1984-1996;
- Pastor, St. Thomas, St. Thomas, 1991-1996;
- Resigned, 1996;
- Retired, 1998

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

**Date permanently removed from ministry:** 1998

**Current location:** Cold Spring, Minn.

**Current status:** Left order and laicized in 2022

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Date of ordination: 1969  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- St. Albert the Great, Minneapolis, 1969-1978;
- Dominican Fathers provincial office, Chicago, 1978-1979;
- Dominican Fathers and Brothers, Southern Dominican Province, New Orleans, 1979-1982;
- Leave of absence
Diocese or religious order: Order of Preachers (Dominicans)
Date permanently removed from ministry: Dismissed from order and dispensed from vows in 1985
Current location: Believed to have died sometime before 2006
Current status: Believed to have died sometime before 2006

Alfred Longley  
Date of birth: 9/17/1913, deceased  
Date of ordination: 1939  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Immaculate Conception, Fairbault, 1939-1942;  
- Military chaplain, U.S. Army, 1942-1952;  
- Pastor, St. Richard, Richfield, 1952-1961;  
- Chaplain, Riverside Medical Center, Minneapolis, 1962-1964;  
- Pastor, St. Jude of the Lake, Maltomedi, 1964
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1958
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 1974

Brennan Maiers  
Date of birth: 4/27/1936 (Age 77)  
Date of ordination: 1963  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
Diocese or religious order: Order of St. Benedict, St. John's Abbey
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002

Current location: Collegeville, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Timothy McCarthy  
Date of birth: 6/25/1946 (Age 67)  
Date of ordination: 1973  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Leo, St. Paul, 1973-1974;  
- Associate priest, All Saints, Lakeville, 1974-1977;  
- Administrator, St. Andrew, Elysian, 1977-1982;  
- Associate priest, St. Peter Clever, St. Paul, 1982-1984;  
- On special assignment, 1982-1984;  
- Associate priest, Guardian Angels, Lake Elmo, 1984;  
- Associate priest, St. Joseph, Lake Elmo, 1984-1986;  
- Pastor, Holy Redeemer, Maplewood, 1986-1991;  
- Resigned, 1991
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1991
Current location: Believed to be residing in Oakdale, Minn., or St. Paul, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

1995  
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 1995

Paul Palmisessa  
Date of birth: 1/18/1931 (Age 82)  
Date of ordination: 1956  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Cathedral of St. Paul, 1956-1968;  
- Pastor, Holy Redeemer, St. Paul, 1968-1979;  
- Pastor, St. Paul, Zumbrota, 1979-1982;  
- Administrator, St. Mary, Bellecheste, 1979-1982;  
- Diocese of San Diego, 1982-1988;  
- Excinded, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Incardinated, Diocese of San Diego, 1988
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Diocese of San Diego
Date permanently removed from ministry: Retired in 1998, limited ministry until 2012
Current location: Santa Fe, Cali.
Current status: No longer in ministry, (determined by the Diocese of San Diego)

Joseph Pinkosh  
Date of birth: 10/27/1943 (Age 70)  
Date of ordination: 1969  
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Joseph, Hopkins, 1969-1972;  
- Associate priest, St. Wenceslaus, New Prague, 1972-1974;  
- Associate priest, Holy Cross, Minneapolis, 1974-1981;  
- Pastor, St. Patrick, Chisago City, 1981-1992
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1992
Current location: Columbia Heights, Minn.
Current status: Left ministry in 1992

Continued on next page
Clergy included on John Jay Commission list with unsubstantiated claims

We have disclosed elsewhere on these pages the names of 29 of the 33 priests on the list provided to the John Jay Commission in 2004 by the archdiocese. We have been able to determine that those 29 priests had substantiated claims asserted against them of sexually abusing a minor. We have not determined that the other four priests had substantiated claims against them of sexually abusing a minor. In fact, we were unable to verify any claim in two of the four cases. Nevertheless, in deference to a recent order from the Ramsey County District Court, we are listing these four priests separately at right with further explanation on each.

Eugene Corica
Date of birth: 7/31/1933 (Age 80)
Date of ordination: 1960
Parish assignments:
• Associate pastor, St. Patrick, Inver Grove Heights, 1974-1976;
• Pastor, St. Bridget, Minneapolis, 1979-1983;
• Associate pastor, St. Raphael, Crystal, 1983-1985;
• Temporary administrator, Holy Childhood, St. Paul, 1985;
• Administrator, Holy Family, St. Louis Park, 1985-1987;
• Pastor, Holy Family, St. Louis Park, 1987-1995
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date no longer in ministry: 1995
Current location: Minneapolis, Minn.
Current status: Left ministry in 1995

Eugene Corica was accused of having sexual relationships with adult women. No claim of sexual abuse of a minor was made or substantiated against Corica. We have not been able to determine why he was included in the list provided to the John Jay Commission.

Robert Lofts
Date of birth: 12/22/1930 (Age 82)
Date of ordination: 1963
Parish assignments:
• Assistant pastor, St. Stephen, Anoka, 1963-1966;
• Assistant pastor, Christ the King, Minneapolis, 1966-1967;
• Assistant pastor, St. Mary’s Basilica, 1967-1971;
• Pastor, St. Frances Cabrini, Minneapolis, 1971-1977
• Leave of absence, 1977
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date no longer in ministry: 1977
Current location: Coon Rapids, Minn.
Current status: Laicized in 1977

Robert Lofts was credibly accused of sexual misconduct with a “young woman” in the early 1970s. We do not have knowledge of the complainant’s age at the time of the misconduct. An independent investigator was hired to review the file and advise on whether Lofts should be disclosed as a “substantiated claim.” To date, the investigator has not determined whether a claim of sexual abuse of a minor was or can be substantiated. The investigation is continuing, and our disclosures will be updated when the investigation is completed.

Patrick Ryan
Date of birth: 12/2/1892, deceased
Date of ordination: 1919
Parish assignments:
• Associate priest, St. Mary, St. Paul, 1919;
• Associate priest, St. Clement, Minneapolis, 1919-1921;
• Associate priest, St. Stephen, Minneapolis, 1921-1922;
• Associate priest, Immaculate Conception, Faribault, 1922-1933;
• Pastor, St. John, Orontiye (New Ulm), 1933-1943;
• Pastor, Guardian Angels, Hastings, 1943-1965
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date no longer in ministry: 1965
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 1965

Patrick Ryan was accused posthumously in 2002 of sexually abusing a minor in 1961, and was subsequently included in the list provided to the John Jay Commission. The Archdiocese subsequently met with the complainant and hired a private investigative firm. The firm investigated the matter through more than two dozen conversations and face-to-face meetings with the complainant as well as interviews with more than a dozen persons thought to have information relevant to the claim against Ryan. The private investigative firm reported that “this investigation found no credible, corroborating or supporting information which would validate the claim of sexual abuse.” The claim of sexually abusing a minor was never substantiated.

Roger Vaughn
Date of birth: 6/16/1948 (Age 65)
Date of ordination: 1977
Parish assignments:
• Crosier Monastery and Seminary, Onamia, 1977-1980. Never assigned to ministry or residence in the archdiocese
Diocese or religious order: Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross (Crosiers)
Date no longer in ministry: 2000
Current location: Yonkers, N.Y.
Current status: Left the Crosier order in 2001

We have not been able to determine why Roger Vaughn was included in the list provided to the John Jay Commission. There is no record of Vaughn being assigned to ministry or residence in this Archdiocese. He was a priest of the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross (Crosiers) until he left the order in 2001. We do not have knowledge of any claims that Vaughn sexually abused a minor in this archdiocese.
What is the ‘Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People’?

In his Nov. 7 column in The Catholic Spirit, Archbishop John Nienstedt identified fulfillment of the charter as a top priority of the archdiocese. Below are answers to some common questions regarding the charter’s scope and provisions.

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 (www.usccb.org/ocyp).

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 anyone 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
Continued from previous page

Francis Reynolds
Date of birth: 9/5/1922, deceased
Date of ordination: 1955
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Maternity of Mary, St. Paul, 1955-1957;
- Associate priest, St. Patrick, St. Paul, 1957-1964;
- Associate priest, Visitation, Minneapolis, 1964-1966;
- Associate priest, St. Margaret Mary, Golden Valley, 1966-1968;
- Pastor, St. Francis Xavier, Buffalo, 1968-1985;
- Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Minneapolis, 1985-1996;
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1987
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 1988

Richard Skluzacek
Date of birth: 8/10/1932, deceased
Date of ordination: 1957
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Stanislaus, St. Paul, 1957-1964;
- Administrator, St. Stanislaus, St. Paul, 1964-1966;
- Associate priest, St. Stephen, Anoka, 1966-1967;
- Associate priest, Most Holy Redeemer, 1967-1968;
- Administrator, Most Holy Trinity, Veseli, 1968-1973;
- Administrator, St. Nicholas, New Market, 1970-1974;
- Pastor, Most Holy Trinity, Veseli, 1974;
- Pastor, Corpus Christi, Roseville, 1974-1978;
- Chaplain, Veterans Medical Center, Minneapolis, 1980-1988;
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2005
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 2012

Michael Stevens
Date of birth: 12/24/1954 (Age 58)
Date of ordination: 1980
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Michael, Prior Lake, 1980-1982;
- Associate priest, Epiphany, Coon Rapids, 1982-1988;
- In residence, St. Mark, St. Paul, 1988;
- In residence, St. Adalbert, St. Paul, 1988-2003
- Reserved, 2002
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Believed to be residing in St. Paul,
Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Thomas Stitts
Date of birth: 5/5/1935, deceased
Date of ordination: 1962
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Matthew, St. Paul, 1962-1965;
- Associate priest, Our Lady of Grace, Edina, 1965-1966;
- Associate priest, Guardian Angels, Hastings, 1966-1970;
- Associate priest, Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul, 1970;
- Administrator, St. Leo, St. Paul, 1970-1973;
- Pastor, St. George, Long Lake, 1973-1980;
- Pastor, St. John the Baptist, New Brighton, 1980-1985
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 1985

Robert Thuner
Date of birth: 11/25/1925 (Age 88)
Date of ordination: 1951
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, Most Holy Trinity, St. Louis Park, 1951-1963;
- Administrator, Most Holy Trinity, St. Louis Park, 1958;
- Pastor, St. Michael, Prior Lake, 1967-1970;
- Temporary administrator, St. Edward, Bloomington, 1986;
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2003
Current location: New Prague, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry

Joseph Wajda
Date of birth: 2/9/1947 (Age 66)
Date of ordination: 1973
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate priest, St. Raphael, Crystal, 1973-1977;
- Associate priest, Immaculate Conception, Columbia Heights, 1977-1981;
- Administrator, Immaculate Conception, Columbia Heights, 1980-1981;
- Associate priest, St. Rose of Lima, Roseville, 1982-1986;
- Temporary administrator, St. Joseph, Waconia, 1986;
- Temporary administrator, Sts. Peter and Paul, Loretto, 1986;
- Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Minneapolis, 1986-1988;
- Pastor, St. Andrew, St. Paul, 1987-1989;
- Associate priest, Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul, 1990-1991;
- Student, Catholic University of America, 1992-1994;
- Judicial Vicar, Metropolitan Tribunal, St. Paul, 1996-2002
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

Raymond Walter
Date of birth: 7/28/1915, deceased
Date of ordination: 1941
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
Diocese or religious order: Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2000
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 2003

Curtis Wehmeyer
Date of birth: 9/28/1964 (Age 49)
Date of ordination: 2001
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Associate pastor, St. Joseph, West St. Paul, 2001-2006;
- Parochial administer, Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul, 2006-2009;
- Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Paul, 2008-2011;
- Pastor, Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul, 2009-2012
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2012
Current location: Minnesota Correctional Facility – St. Cloud, Minn.
Current status: Permanently removed from ministry. Incarcerated

Robert Zasacki
Date of birth: 5/13/1940, deceased
Date of ordination: 1967
Cleric's prior assignments in archdiocese:
- Entered archdiocese from Archdiocese of Newark, 1979;
- St. Bridget, Lindstrom, 1982-1983;
- Administrator, St. Peter, Forest Lake, 1985-1987;
- Incardinated, 1987;
- Pastor, St. Peter, Forest Lake, 1987-1989;
- Pastor, St. Peter, Delano, 1989-1995;
- Pastor, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, 1995-2001;
- Pastor, St. Joseph, Hopkins, 2001-2002
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.
Date permanently removed from ministry: 2002
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died in 2008

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Questions and answers were provided by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Q. Why are you choosing to disclose the names of offending priests now?
A. Appropriate disclosure is critically important if we are to do all that we can to keep children safe, help victims of abuse heal, and regain the trust and confidence of our communities. We believe this is an essential step in regaining trust and confidence. This decision on disclosure will take us to a new level of accountability and — most importantly — we believe these actions will further serve our primary goal of protecting minors.

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.archspm.org. Right at the top of our home page, you’ll see an icon that says “Advocacy and Victim Assistance,” a page on our website that we have had for many years. In this section of our website, we have added access to a new page called “Disclosures Regarding Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors.”

Q. You initially said you would only disclose the names of living priests currently residing in the archdiocese. Why did you decide to expand your disclosure by including the names of the deceased priests as well as priests living outside the archdiocese?
A. Consistent with the paramount want to ensure that our initiative now to release the names and related information was not in violation of that order.

In addition, we were concerned about the release of the entire list because we were able to determine that only 29 of the priests listed in 2004 had credible claims asserted against them of sexually abusing a minor that could be substantiated. We have not determined that the other four priests had substantiated claims against them of sexually abusing a minor. In fact, we were unable to verify any claim in two of the four cases.

Q. What is the difference between a “credible” claim and one that is “substantiated”?
A. As soon as the archdiocese is made aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, appropriate archdiocesan staff promptly takes two steps. First, the allegation is reported to the police or other authorities, as appropriate, so that they can make whatever evaluation or investigation they deem appropriate. Second, the archdiocese initiates its own internal evaluation of the allegation.

The first step in this internal evaluation is to determine whether the claim is “credible.” A “credible” claim is one that is not manifestly false or frivolous. If the archdiocese determines that a credible claim exists, the archdiocese opens an investigation to determine whether a claim is “substantiated.” A “substantiated claim” is one for which sufficient evidence exists to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred.

Neither a credible accusation nor a substantiated claim is a conclusion or presumption of guilt. Rather, if a

abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy, the archdiocese will share that information with the public by issuing and posting a press release. If a credible claim is determined to be substantiated, whether from the review of clergy files by outside experts or otherwise, we will provide that information on the disclosure section of our website.

Q. Are these priests being supported financially or in other ways by the archdiocese? Where does this money come from?
A. All priests are legally entitled to receive pension benefits that have been accrued. Financial support varies depending on the individual circumstance. The archdiocese 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. Two of the men are receiving a salary and housing allowance. Pension and retirement health care payments are paid from the pension trust, and salary and housing allowances are paid from the archdiocesan operating account.

Q. Have any of these men been permanently removed from the priesthood (laicized)?
A. A few of these men have been laicized. None of these men is allowed to exercise ministry. When the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” was promulgated in 2002, the decision was made to impose severe restrictions and monitor these offending priests rather than seek laicization — removal from the priesthood altogether — based on a desire by the archdiocese to oversee these men versus placing them outside support groups, and, where appropriate, attend accountability groups regarding particular addictions and/or issues.

The archdiocesan monitoring program was created and has been implemented to contribute toward the creation of safer environments. Appropriate accountability and monitoring of priests who have a history of sexual misconduct helps ensure present and future health toward the goal of preventing future sexual misconduct and safer environments.

Q. What is the threshold for removing a priest from active ministry?
A. If the archdiocese receives a credible claim of sexual abuse of a minor, a priest will be 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 should be conveyed to the proper civil authorities, such as the local police. In addition, he or she is encouraged to notify Greta Sawyer, the archdiocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator at (651) 291-4497.

Q. Can priests with substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor against them ever be put back into active ministry?
The goal of protecting children, the archdiocese is including the names of clergy members from other dioceses or religious orders who at one time worked in the archdiocese and were accused of engaging in sexual abuse of minors in the archdiocese, to the extent we have reliable and sufficient information to determine whether the claim is credible and has been substantiated. The archdiocese is disclosing information about priests of our archdiocese who are living outside of the archdiocese for the same reason. We believe it may aid in protecting children in other dioceses where these priests live. We also believe that it is appropriate to disclose information regarding the deceased priests because doing so may help the healing process for some victims.

Q. Why was permission required from the court to release the names?

A. There has been a protective order in place in Ramsey County District Court since 2009 related to a list of 33 priests provided by the archdiocese to the John Jay Commission in 2004. That list was used to compile a nationwide summary of "credible" claims of clergy abuse of minors. The court order to seal this list applied to all parties, including the archdiocese. Out of respect and deference to the court, we

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

A. These disclosures are intended to be ongoing. We are currently engaged in a comprehensive review of clergy files and the list will be updated as additional announcements are made. These disclosure practices may evolve in the future as we progress, including recommendations that may be made by the independent task force or through the review of our clergy files by an outside firm. If the archdiocese learns of additional credible claims that are substantiated, this finding initiates a canonical process in order to resolve the claim.

Q. How often will additional names be disclosed?

A. Whenever the archdiocese learns of additional credible claims of abuse of minors, the archdiocese may disclose the name of the Church and unsupervised as lay citizens who would have no restrictions. This was an earnest effort to be responsible.

For some of the men, the decision to sequester them by removing them from all ministry, monitoring their behavior and ensuring they are living lives of prayer and penance was approved by the Holy See as an alternative response to their abusive behavior.

Q. How are the men who have been removed from ministry, but who are still priests, being monitored?

A. The archdiocese currently has a program by which priests who have committed sexual misconduct are monitored by a professional who works for the archdiocese. The Promoter of Ministerial Standards (POMS) creates and oversees an individual monitoring plan for each priest and meets regularly with these priests to help ensure accountability and health. Each year, a new plan is developed with the goal of maintaining and ensuring appropriate behavior and boundaries, a healthy lifestyle and spiritual life, and accountability. Among other things, priests on the monitoring plan may be required to do the following: attend counseling sessions, meet regularly with a spiritual director, attend priest development retreats, complete regular biennial reviews by a professional.