

**From: Cappy Larson**  
**To: agarklavs@oca.org**  
**Cc:**  
**metropolitan@oca.org,chancery@midwestdiocese.org,chancery@roea.org,vladyka@archdiocese.ca,BpNikon@aol.com,bptikhon@doepa.org,bishop@dowoca.org,subdiacono\_antonio@yahoo.com.mx,chancery@roea.org,melchisedek999@yahoo.com,melanie@pokrov.org**  
**Sent: Sat, 11 Apr 2009 20:36:40 -0700**  
**Subject: Regarding Allegations**

Pokrov.org  
Post Office Box 170654  
San Francisco, CA 94117

-----  
Voice Mail: 415-820-9645  
Fax: 925-283-2305

The Very Reverend Alexander Garklavs  
Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America  
PO Box 675  
Syosset, NY 11791-0675

Dear Father,

Pokrov has received numerous reports on the serious allegations of the abuse of minor boys by Bishop Seraphim Storheim. We have been aware of the re-surfacing of these allegations for some months now. It is our understanding that a written report was sent to the OCA. We also understand that you are in contact with the source.

We are aware of the fact that these allegations are twenty-five years old and they were reported to the OCA when the alleged abuse occurred. It is our understanding that there is an original report in the files at Syosset. And yet, Storheim was found fit to be consecrated a bishop by the OCA Synod of Bishops. We find this outrageous considering the fact that we heard of another report of abuse allegations against Storheim from North Carolina.

We know that there are at least two victims in Canada who were ten years old when the alleged abuse took place. We also know that the boys stated that other boys were abused as well. We know that they received a letter of apology from then Father Seraphim Storheim. We were also told that the victims, who are now adults, are living in .

We know that Storheim was sent to Metropolitan Jonah's former monastery in Manton, CA a couple weeks ago to supposedly be evaluated. Evaluated for what? Even though these 25 year old allegations re-surfaced in October of 2008, this man has still not been temporarily relieved of his duties pending a thorough investigation. We assume that no

parents in the Diocese of Canada have been warned of this danger. As you may or may not be aware, pedophiles rarely stop abusing especially those who abuse very young children (11 and under). What attempts have been made to find any additional victims? The devastation caused to young boys who have been victimized like this is great. Just because the victims have not contacted you directly, is no excuse to ignore this case. The Good Shepherd seeks out the sheep that are lost! Are there any Good Shepherds in the OCA?

According to the OCA's own guidelines, any alleged abuse of minors should be reported to the authorities. Has the OCA made a police report to the authorities in Canada? It is my understanding that there is no statute of limitations in Canada. The abuse of minors is not something that should be handled internally by the OCA.

Pokrov looks forward to a response from you on all the points in this letter. We expect the OCA to do the right thing. The first action should be to contact the authorities. We doubt that the OCA is capable of dealing with this situation, so we suggest that you hire outside professionals who are qualified to do so.

Cappy Larson  
[www.pokrov.org](http://www.pokrov.org)

Copies Via email

The Most Blessed Jonah  
The Most Reverend Job  
The Most Reverend Nathaniel  
The Most Reverend Seraphim  
The Right Reverend Nikon  
The Right Reverend Tikhon  
The Right Reverend Benjamin  
The Right Reverend Alejo  
The Right Reverend Irineu  
Hieromonk Melchisedek

Via US Mail

The Most Blessed Jonah  
Archbishop of Washington and New York  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
New York Residence:  
PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791-0675

The Most Reverend Nathaniel  
Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate  
PO Box 309  
Grass Lake, MI 49240-0309

The Most Reverend Job  
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest  
927-933 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, IL 60610

The Most Reverend Seraphim  
Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada  
PO Box 179  
Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0

The Right Reverend Nikon  
Bishop of Boston, New England,  
and the Albanian Archdiocese  
PO Box 149  
Southbridge, MA 01550

The Right Reverend Tikhon  
Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
PO Box 130  
South Canaan, PA 18459

The Right Reverend Benjamin  
Bishop of San Francisco and the West  
1520 Green St  
San Francisco, CA 94123

The Right Reverend Alejo  
Bishop of Mexico City and the Exarchate of Mexico  
Irapuato 53 Y Av Rio  
Col Penon De Los Ban, Mexico 9, DF

The Right Reverend Irineu  
Bishop of Dearborn Heights  
23300 Davison Ave. W.  
Detroit, MI 48223

**From: Alexander Garklavs [mailto:agarklavs@oca.org]**

**To: cappy**

**Cc:**

**chancery@midwestdiocese.org, chancery@roea.org, vладыka@archdiocese.ca, BpNikon@aol.com, bptikhon@doepa.org, bishop@dowoca.org, subdiacono\_antonio@yahoo.com.mx, chancery@roea.org, melchisedek999@yahoo.com, melanie@pokrov.org**

**Sent: Sun, 12 Apr 2009 12:15:21 -0400**

**Subject: RE: Regarding Allegations**

Dear Cappy,

In response to your e-mail, it must be said with absolutely no equivocation that the Orthodox Church in America does not possess any direct information from alleged victims of any kind of abuse by Archbishop Seraphim. We have received a letter in which second hand information about allegations regarding Archbishop Seraphim were communicated to us. I have been in touch with the person who wrote that letter and have asked that he contact the alleged victims, and that he instruct them to confidentially contact our office. I have spoken with this person several times, attempting to obtain information, either names of or information about the victims. As of yet, we have not received any information from any alleged victims. The person who has reported this has not provided any information that would commence a course of action, including informing Canadian authorities.

As it stands, we only have the claim of one individual who asserts that he knows about such allegations, but not the facts which would put into motion the necessary investigation. There are no written records in our Chancery, nor have I received any verbal communication that these allegations were brought to the OCA twenty-five years ago. I do not know if they were communicated to someone orally at that that time. The person who wrote the letter, who claims that the allegations are true, did tell me that he shared "something" with "someone" in confession twenty-five years ago. He did not elaborate on what the "something" was nor who the "someone" is.

About North Carolina: we do not have anything in our files (i.e., in Archbishop Seraphim's files) about any incident(s) that took place there. I do not know what took place at St. John Monastery in Manton, CA when Archbishop Seraphim was there. I do know that Metropolitan Jonah and Archbishop Seraphim have spoken several times in private. I also know that members of the Holy Synod are aware of and concerned about the matters described in your e-mail.

Based on what we now know, there is no reason to believe that either the Holy Synod or the OCA in general has done anything improper in this case. Personally, I believe that the present Holy Synod is composed of "good shepherds" who would not, under any circumstances, allow any danger or harm to come to members of our Orthodox flocks or anyone. As for myself, I find pedophilia and any form of abuse of children repugnant and reprehensible. I am confident that this is also the case for the members of the Holy Synod, and I am sure that I speak for all of us who work here at the OCA Chancery, as well as all of the clergy in the Orthodox Church in America.

If you do have any relevant information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I do wish you a blessed Holy Week and a joyous celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ our Lord,

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs

**From: Cappy Larson**  
**To: agarklavs@oca.org**  
**Cc:**  
**metropolitan@oca.org,chancery@midwestdiocese.org,chancery@roea.org,vladyka@archdiocese.ca,BpNikon@aol.com,bptikhon@doepa.org,bishop@dowoca.org,subdiacono\_antonio@yahoo.com.mx,melchisedek999@yahoo.com,melanie@pokrov.org**  
**Sent: Sun, 10 May 2009 15:37:44 -0700**  
**Subject: RE: Regarding Allegations**

May 10, 2009

To Archpriest Alexander Garklavs  
Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America

Father Alexander,

Christ is Risen!

Thank you for your timely response to my email of April 11, 2009.

I have taken the time to read and re-read your email. It tells me that the Orthodox Church in America plans to do nothing and that you and the Synod of Bishops are powerless to act in this situation.

You admit that you and the entire Synod of Bishops are aware of these very serious allegations. I wrote in my first email that I have information from an additional source that states that there was a report of these allegations in the files at the Orthodox Church in America's headquarters in Syosset from twenty-five years ago. I suggest looking again or asking the Synod of Bishops about what might have happened to it. I believe with a thorough and honest investigation it will be clear that the allegations were reported to the OCA twenty-five years ago. And it is baffling why Archbishop Seraphim was consecrated a bishop in light of these allegations without even an investigation. These are not just allegations involving a little indiscretion; these allegations include criminal behavior that is life altering to its victims.

You write,

“As it stands, we only have the claim of one individual who asserts that he knows about such allegations, but not the facts which would put into motion the necessary investigation.”

It seems to me that you have things backwards. An investigation is necessary in order to find out what the facts are in this case. There usually are no facts until after a thorough investigation has been completed.

Are you saying that the Orthodox Church in America does not take seriously the allegations that a victim (in this case two victims) reports to an Orthodox Priest? I think that is a very “direct” report (to use your word). Archbishop Seraphim surely knows who these boys are . Have you asked him? Maybe this is where the investigation could start.

When you take into account that these little boys were only 10 years old, I’m amazed at their courage to speak out at all. I hope that these boys, who are now young men, are getting the support and help they need. I pray for them and I hope they will keep strong. I hope they know that they are not alone and there are people out there who will support them.

I’m surprised that you know nothing about Archbishop Seraphim’s trip to Manton CA and his “evaluation” there. I would think that the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America would have more information than I have. Two “professionals” allegedly evaluated him. But I question this internal evaluation, which was done at a monastery, in secret, without even the knowledge of the OCA Chancellor. Especially when you say that you are the one who is in contact with the source of the allegations.

If these allegations prove to be true, the Orthodox Church in America has endangered dozens and dozens of young Orthodox boys for over twenty-five years. And it has now been six months since the allegations have re-surfaced and still no investigation and Archbishop Seraphim continues in a position of power.

Since my last email to you (cc to the entire Synod of Bishops), Archbishop Seraphim had the honor of accompanying Met. Jonah on his first trip to Russia as the new Primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

Father, where are the heroes in the Orthodox Church in America? Where are the GOOD SHEPHERDS? And who is watching over the sheep? The GOOD SHEPHERD looks out for the sheep and seeks out the sheep that are lost.

Cappy Larson  
[www.pokrov.org](http://www.pokrov.org)