

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF RAMSEY

DISTRICT COURT  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Doe 19,

Case Type: Personal Injury

Court File No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

**SUMMONS**

Diocese of Crookston; and Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
a/k/a/ and d/b/a Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
United States Province, a/k/a and d/b/a Missionary  
Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a/k/a and d/b/a  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
United States Province, a/k/a and d/b/a  
Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate (Central Prov.),

Defendants.

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THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED.

**1. YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

**2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.**

You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons **a written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A., 366 Jackson Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55101.

**3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or

disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

**4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

**5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**

**6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

Dated: 11/14/13

JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.



By: Jeffrey R. Anderson, #2057  
 Michael G. Finnegan, #033649X  
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 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 (651) 227-9990

Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Personal Injury

Doe 19,

Court File No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

**COMPLAINT**

Diocese of Crookston; and Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
a/k/a and d/b/a Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
United States Province, a/k/a and d/b/a Missionary  
Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a/k/a and d/b/a  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate,  
United States Province, a/k/a and d/b/a  
Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate (Central Prov.),

Defendants.

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Plaintiff, for his cause of action against Defendants, alleges that:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Doe 19 is a resident of the state of Minnesota and at all relevant times for this Complaint resided in the State of Minnesota. The identity of Plaintiff Doe 19 has been disclosed under separate cover to Defendants.

2. At all times material, Defendant Diocese of Crookston (hereinafter "Diocese") was and continues to be an organization or entity, which includes, but is not limited to, civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of Minnesota with its principal place of business at 1200 Memorial Drive, Crookston, Minnesota. The Bishop is the top official of the Diocese and is given authority over all matters within the Diocese as a result of his position. The Diocese functions as a business by engaging in numerous revenue producing activities and soliciting

money from its members in exchange for its services. The Diocese has several programs which seek out the participation of children in the Diocese's activities. The Diocese, through its officials, has control over those activities involving children. The Diocese has the power to appoint, supervise, monitor, and fire each person working with children within the Diocese.

3. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a/k/a and d/b/a Oblates of Mary Immaculate, United States Province, a/k/a and d/b/a Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a/k/a and d/b/a Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, United States Province, a/k/a and formerly doing business in Minnesota as the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate (Central Prov.) (hereinafter referred to as the "Oblates"), was and continues to be a Roman Catholic religious order of priests and brothers affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church with its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Oblates are an organization or entity which includes, but is not limited to, civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of Minnesota with its principal place of business located at 104 North Mississippi River Boulevard, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-2374. The provincial is the top official of the Oblates and is given authority over all matters dealing with the Oblates as a result of his position. The Oblates function as a business by engaging in numerous revenue producing activities and soliciting money in exchange for its services. The Oblates have several programs which seek out the participation of children in the Oblates' activities. The Oblates, through its officials, have control over those activities involving children. The Oblates have the power to appoint, supervise, monitor, and fire each person working with children within the Oblates.

## **FACTS**

4. At all times material, Father James Vincent Fitzgerald (hereinafter "Fitzgerald"), was a Roman Catholic priest employed by Defendant Diocese and the Oblates (hereinafter "Defendants"). At all times material, Fitzgerald remained under the direct supervision, employ and control of Defendants. Defendants placed Fitzgerald in positions where he had access to and worked with children as an integral part of his work.

5. From 1968 through 1969, Fitzgerald was employed by the Diocese of Sioux Falls in Sisseton, South Dakota. According to a civil lawsuit filed in 2010, Fitzgerald abused at least one minor female and one minor male at the Tekakwitha Orphanage on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation while he worked in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Defendants knew or should have known about the abuse.

6. After Fitzgerald was in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, he moved to the Diocese of Duluth where he worked from 1970 to 1983. In addition, Fitzgerald was also employed by the Diocese of Crookston from 1973 to 1978. Upon information and belief, during this time, Fitzgerald abused a minor male. Defendants knew or should have known about the abuse.

7. Defendants then placed Fitzgerald at St. Anne's Parish on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Naytahwaush, Minnesota from 1984 to 1985. Fitzgerald had unlimited access to children at St. Anne's, including Plaintiff. Children, including Plaintiff, and their families were not told what Defendants knew or should have known: that Fitzgerald had sexually molested other children and that Fitzgerald was a danger to them.

8. Upon information and belief, it was common practice to place priests with histories of child sexual abuse on Reservations.

9. Plaintiff participated in youth activities at St. Anne's. He was raised in a devout Roman Catholic family, served as an altar boy, and participated in activities at St. Anne's. Plaintiff, therefore, developed great admiration, trust, reverence and respect for the Roman Catholic Church, including Defendants and its agents.

10. In approximately 1984 when Plaintiff was about 8 or 9 years old, Fitzgerald engaged in unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff.

11. Defendants knew or should have known that Fitzgerald was a child molester and/or knew or should have known that Fitzgerald was a danger to children before Fitzgerald molested Plaintiff.

12. Defendants negligently or recklessly believed that Fitzgerald was fit to work with children and/or that any previous problems he had were fixed and cured; that Fitzgerald would not sexually molest children and that Fitzgerald would not injure children; and/or that Fitzgerald would not hurt children.

13. By holding Fitzgerald out as safe to work with children, and by undertaking the custody, supervision of, and/or care of the minor Plaintiff, Defendants entered into a fiduciary relationship with the minor Plaintiff. As a result of Plaintiff being a minor, and by Defendants undertaking the care and guidance of the then vulnerable minor Plaintiff, Defendants held a position of empowerment over Plaintiff.

14. Further, Defendants, by holding themselves out as being able to provide a safe environment for children, solicited and/or accepted this position of empowerment. This empowerment prevented the then minor Plaintiff from effectively protecting himself and Defendants thus entered into a fiduciary relationship with Plaintiff.

15. Defendants had a special relationship with Plaintiff.

16. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because they had superior knowledge about the risk that Fitzgerald posed to Plaintiff, the risk of abuse in general in its programs and/or the risks that its facilities posed to minor children.

17. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because it solicited youth and parents for participation in its youth programs; encouraged youth and parents to have the youth participate in its programs; undertook custody of minor children, including Plaintiff; promoted its facilities and programs as being safe for children; held its agents including Fitzgerald out as safe to work with children; encouraged parents and children to spend time with its agents; and/or encouraged its agents, including Fitzgerald, to spend time with, interact with, and recruit children.

18. Defendants had a duty to Plaintiff to protect him from harm because Defendants' actions created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff.

19. Defendants' breach of its duties include, but are not limited to: failure to have sufficient policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to properly implement the policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to take reasonable measures to make sure that the policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse were working, failure to adequately inform families and children of the risks of child sex abuse, failure to investigate risks of child molestation, failure to properly train the workers at institutions and programs within each of Defendants' geographical confines, failure to have any outside agency test its safety procedures, failure to protect the children in their programs from child sex abuse, failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care for child safety, failure to investigate the amount and type of information necessary to represent the institutions, programs, leaders and people as safe, failure to train its employees properly to identify signs of child molestation by fellow employees,

failure by relying upon mental health professionals, and/or failure by relying on people who claimed that they could treat child molesters.

20. Defendants failed to use ordinary care in determining whether its facilities were safe and/or to determine whether it had sufficient information to represent its facilities as safe. Defendants' failures include, but are not limited to: failure to have sufficient policies and procedures to prevent abuse at its facilities, failure to investigate risks at its facilities, failure to properly train the workers at its facilities, failure to have any outside agency test its safety procedures, failure to investigate the amount and type of information necessary to represent its facilities as safe, failure to train its employees properly to identify signs of child molestation by fellow employees, failure by relying upon mental health professionals, failure by relying upon people who claimed that they could treat child molesters.

21. Defendants also breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to warn him and his family of the risk that Fitzgerald posed and the risks of child sexual abuse by clerics. It also failed to warn him about any of the knowledge that Defendants had about child sex abuse.

22. Defendants also breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to report Fitzgerald's abuse of children to the police and law enforcement.

23. Defendants knew or should have known that some of the leaders and people working at Catholic institutions within the Diocese were not safe.

24. Defendants knew or should have known that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not their leaders and people working at Catholic institutions within the Diocese were safe.

25. Defendants knew or should have known that there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.

26. Defendants knew or should have known that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.

27. Defendants knew or should have known that they had numerous agents who had sexually molested children. They knew or should have known that child molesters have a high rate of recidivism. They knew or should have known that there was a specific danger of child sex abuse for children participating in their youth programs.

28. Defendants held their leaders and agents out as people of high morals, as possessing immense power, teaching families and children to obey these leaders and agents, teaching families and children to respect and revere these leaders and agents, soliciting youth and families to its programs, marketing to youth and families, recruiting youth and families, and holding out the people that worked in the programs as safe.

29. Defendants were negligent and/or made representations to Plaintiff and his family during each and every year of his minority.

30. In 2004, Defendant Diocese publically admitted that there were 5 priests who worked in the Diocese who had been credibly accused of sexually molesting minors. The Diocese has not released those names to the public. As a result, children are at risk of being sexually molested.

31. As a direct result of Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, great pain of mind and body, severe and permanent emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, humiliation, physical, personal and psychological injuries. Plaintiff was prevented, and will continue to be prevented, from performing his normal daily activities and obtaining the full

enjoyment of life; has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling; and, on information and belief, has and/or will incur loss of income and/or loss of earning capacity.

**COUNT I: DEFENDANT DIOCESE –**  
**NUISANCE (COMMON LAW AND MINN. STAT. § 561.01)**

32. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

33. Defendant continues to conspire and engage and/or has conspired and engaged in efforts to: 1) conceal from the general public the sexual assaults committed by, the identities of, and the pedophilic/ephebophilic tendencies of, Fitzgerald and Defendant's other agents on its list of credibly accused priests; 2) attack the credibility of the victims of Defendant's agents; and/or 3) protect Defendant's agents from criminal prosecution for their sexual assaults against children.

34. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant was and is injurious to the health and/or indecent or offensive to the senses and/or an obstruction to the free use of property by the general public, including, but not limited to, residents in the Diocese of Crookston and all other members of the general public who live in communities where Defendant's credibly accused molesters live. It was and is indecent and offensive to the senses, so as to interfere with the general public's comfortable enjoyment of life in that the general public cannot trust Defendant to warn parents of the presence of the current and/or former credibly accused molesters, nor to identify their current and/or former credibly accused molesters, nor to disclose said credibly accused molesters' assignment histories, nor to disclose their patterns of conduct in grooming and sexually assaulting children, all of which create an impairment of the safety of children in the neighborhoods in Minnesota and throughout the

Midwest United States where Defendant conducted, and continues to conduct, its business.

35. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant was specially injurious to Plaintiff's health as he was sexually assaulted by Defendant's agent, Fitzgerald.

36. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant also was specially injurious to Plaintiff's health in that when Plaintiff finally discovered the negligence and/or deception and concealment of Defendant, Plaintiff experienced mental and emotional distress that Plaintiff had been the victim of the Defendant's negligence and/or deception and concealment; that Plaintiff had not been able to help other minors being molested because of the negligence and/or deception and concealment; and that Plaintiff had not been able to because of the negligence and/or deception and concealment to receive timely medical treatment needed to deal with the problems Plaintiff had suffered and continues to suffer as a result of the molestations.

37. Plaintiff also suffered special, particular and peculiar harm after he learned of the Diocese's concealment of its list of priests credibly accused of sexually molesting minors, which continues as long as the list remains concealed. As a result of the concealment, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer lessened enjoyment of his life, impaired health, emotional distress, and/or physical symptoms of emotional distress. He has also experienced depression, anxiety, and anger.

38. The continuing public nuisance created by Defendant was, and continues to be, the proximate cause of the injuries and damages to the general public and of Plaintiff's special injuries and damages as alleged.

39. In doing the aforementioned acts, Defendant acted negligently and/or intentionally, maliciously and with conscious disregard for Plaintiff's rights.

40. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT II: DEFENDANT DIOCESE - NEGLIGENCE**

41. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

42. Defendant Diocese owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care.

43. Defendant Diocese breached the duty of reasonable care it owed Plaintiff.

44. Defendant's breach of its duty was the proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

45. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT III: DEFENDANT DIOCESE – NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION**

46. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

47. At all times material, Defendant Fitzgerald was employed by Defendant Diocese and was under Defendant Diocese's direct supervision, employ and control when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein. Defendant Fitzgerald engaged in the wrongful conduct while acting in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant Diocese and/or accomplished the sexual abuse by virtue of his job-created authority. Defendant Diocese failed to exercise ordinary care in supervising Defendant Fitzgerald in his parish assignment within the Diocese and failed to prevent the foreseeable misconduct of Defendant Fitzgerald from causing harm to others, including the Plaintiff herein.

48. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the

injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT IV: DEFENDANT DIOCESE –  
NEGLIGENT RETENTION**

49. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

50. Defendant, by and through its agents, servants and employees, became aware, or should have become aware, of problems indicating that Fitzgerald was an unfit agent with dangerous and exploitive propensities, yet Defendant failed to take any further action to remedy the problem and failed to investigate or remove Fitzgerald from working with children.

51. As a direct result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT V: DEFENDANT OBLATES -  
NEGLIGENCE**

52. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

53. Defendant Oblates owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care.

54. Defendant Oblates breached the duty of reasonable care it owed Plaintiff.

55. Defendant's breach of its duty was the proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

56. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT VI: DEFENDANT OBLATES –  
NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION**

57. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

58. At all times material, Defendant Fitzgerald was employed by Defendant Oblates

and was under Defendant Oblates' direct supervision, employ and control when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein. Defendant Fitzgerald engaged in the wrongful conduct while acting in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant Oblates and/or accomplished the sexual abuse by virtue of his job-created authority. Defendant Oblates failed to exercise ordinary care in supervising Defendant Fitzgerald in his parish assignment and failed to prevent the foreseeable misconduct of Defendant Fitzgerald from causing harm to others, including the Plaintiff herein.

59. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT VII: DEFENDANT OBLATES –  
NEGLIGENT RETENTION**

60. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

61. Defendant, by and through its agents, servants and employees, became aware, or should have become aware, of problems indicating that Fitzgerald was an unfit agent with dangerous and exploitive propensities, yet Defendant failed to take any further action to remedy the problem and failed to investigate or remove Fitzgerald from working with children.

62. As a direct result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

65. Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, plus costs, disbursements, reasonable attorney's fees, interest, and such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.

66. Plaintiff requests an order requiring that the Diocese publically release the names

of all credibly accused child molesting priests, each such priests history of abuse, each such priests pattern of grooming and sexual behavior, and his last known address.

DEMAND IS HEREBY MADE FOR A TRIAL BY JURY.

Dated: 11/14/13

JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.



By: Jeffrey R. Anderson, #2057  
Michael G. Finnegan, #033649X  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
366 Jackson Street, Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 227-9990

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that sanctions, including costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney fees may be awarded pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 549.211 to the party against whom the allegations in this pleading are asserted.

