



August 2012

Dear Friends:

Since 2004, the Wilmington/Philadelphia Province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales has been named in lawsuits in the Superior Court of Delaware filed by 40 plaintiffs, each of which contained allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. In these lawsuits, Oblates, some living and some now deceased, were accused of harmful violations of trust against young people, between 1955 and 1991.

While Delaware's passage of the Child Victims' Act in 2007 led to a total of 40 survivors filing lawsuits seeking justice and reconciliation, the Oblates have been dedicated to the healing of the abused and the protection of young people for many years prior to the enactment of the CVA. Over the years, the Oblates have offered and funded counseling services to anyone coming forth alleging abuse by an Oblate, including members of their families. The Oblates are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to take part in a global settlement agreement with all of the men and women who filed claims against us pursuant to the CVA of 2007. Though healing has begun, more needs to be done.

Toward that goal, the Oblates enlisted the aid of Praesidium, Inc., a secular abuse risk management company that assists organizations such as schools, recreation centers and other groups -- like the Oblates -- who deal regularly with young people. The Oblates work closely with Praesidium, an independent review board, and mental health and childhood abuse specialists in order to ensure that what happened in the past to young people in our care will never happen again.

One step the Oblates need to take today is to share with you the names of 12 Oblates accused of hurting young people over the past five decades. Eight of these Oblates, not all of whom are priests, are deceased. Four are living in monitored locations, after having been removed from ministry. The men on this list have admitted or substantiated allegations against them. I share their names with you in an effort to inform you as to their assignment history and to their present situation.

It is with some hesitation that I have decided to disclose the names of certain deceased Oblates about whom we have received allegations of sexual abuse subsequent to death. I regret any sorrow or embarrassment that their families and friends may experience as a result of this disclosure.

I also regret any further suffering that any of the survivors may endure as a result of being reminded of their abuse. The abuse of children by priests and other clergy is shocking, reprehensible, and devastating to all whose trust has been shattered by their selfish deeds.

Please know that my fellow Oblates and I have dedicated ourselves to ensuring that the dark history of abuse by our brothers shall never be revived. We take steps each day to protect, to cherish, and to respect the young people whom we hope to help as we minister with the gentleness and humility of Jesus and in the tradition of our patron, St. Francis de Sales.

Sincerely,

Very Rev. James J. Greenfield, OSFS
Provincial



Robert Drelich – Born 1953, date of perpetual profession 1979. *Assignments:* Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1976; Villa Maria Retreat Center, Wernersville, PA, 1980; St. Francis de Sales Parish, Robesonia, PA, 1982; Nazareth Academy High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1985; St. Joachim Parish, Philadelphia, PA, 1994; Villa de Sales, Wyndmoor, PA, 1996. Removed from ministry 2010. Resides at Childs, MD.

Richard N. Grant (Deceased) – Born 1939, ordained 1968, died 1993. *Assignments:* Novitiate, Childs, MD, 1960; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1961; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1962; De Chantal Hall, Lewiston, NY, 1963; De Sales Hall, Hyattsville, MD, 1964; Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, VA, 1969; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1979; St. Sebastian Parish, Sebastian, FL, 1992.

John X. Harvey (Deceased) – Born 1926, ordained 1957, died 1971. *Assignments:* Villa Maria Retreat House, Wernersville, PA, 1966; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1966; St. Paul's Parish, Delaware City, 1968; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1969; Villa Maria Retreat House, Wernersville, PA 1970; Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1971.

John Heckel (Deceased) – Born 1917, ordained 1944, died 2002. *Assignments:* Novitiate, Childs, MD, 1935; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1936; Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1940; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1942; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1945; De Chantal Hall, Lewiston, NY, 1950; St. Anthony's of Padua Parish, Wilmington, DE, 1959; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1961; Provincial Residence of the Wilmington/Philadelphia Province, Wilmington, DE, 1969; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1975; retired 1993.

Harold Hermley (Deceased) – Born 1929, ordained 1957, died 1983. *Assignments:* Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1949; Camp de Sales, Brooklyn, MI, 1950, 1952, 1953; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1957; Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, VA, 1964; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1966; Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1972; St. Theresa Parish, Tuckerton, NJ, 1976; Father Judge Community, Philadelphia, PA, 1982.

Robert J. Hermley (Deceased) – Born 1927, ordained 1955, died 2009. *Assignments:* Catholic University, Washington, DC, 1946; North Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1948; Catholic University, Washington, DC, 1950; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1955; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, 1956; Fr. Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1966; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Seaside Heights, NJ, 1978; Padua Academy, Wilmington, DE, 1980; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna, VA, 1982; St. Mary's Parish, Fredericksburg, VA, 1991; Seton Home Study (chaplain), 1992; Little Sisters of the Poor (chaplain), Newark, 2001; retired 2003.



Dennis W. Killion – Born 1951, ordained 1980. *Assignments:* Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1980; Archbishop Wood High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1986; Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, VA, 1990; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1991; Bishop Verot High School, Fort Meyers, FL, 2006; Removed from ministry 2008. Resides at Childs, MD.

Jack McDevitt (Deceased) – Born 1924, ordained 1966, died 1999. *Assignments:* Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1967; Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA 1968; Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, PA, 1980; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1982; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1989. Retired 1994 to DeSales Centre, Childs, MD.



Harold V. McGovern – Born 1940, ordained 1970. *Assignments:* Novitiate, Childs, MD, 1959; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1961; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1962; North Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1964; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1967; Holy Infant Parish, Durham, NC, 1971; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1972; Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston Salem, NC, 1979; Holy Cross Parish, Kernersville, NC, 1980; Mission Training Program, Uruguay and Mexico, 1988; Holy Childs Parish, Philadelphia, PA, 1990; St. Mary's and Edward Parish, Roxboro, NC, 2001; Missions in Ecuador, 2006. Removed from ministry 2008. Resides at DeSales House, Wilmington, DE.

Francis L. Norris (Deceased) – Born 1925, ordained 1956, died 1985. *Assignments:* Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1956; De Sales Catholic High School, Lockport, NY, 1957; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1960; Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1968; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1977.



James W. O'Neill – Born 1939, ordained 1967. *Assignments:* Bishop Duffy High School, Niagara Falls, NY, 1959; Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, VA, 1968; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1973; Archbishop Wood High School, Warminster, PA, 1986; Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, MA, 1990; St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greensboro, NC, 1991. Removed from ministry 2003. Resides at Childs, MD.

Henry Paul (Deceased) – Born 1912, ordained 1941, died 1982. *Assignments:* Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1941; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1942; Cathedral Prep, Erie, PA, 1946; Gannon College, Erie, PA, 1947; Bishop Duffy High School, Niagara Falls, NY, 1949; Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, NY, 1952; Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, 1955; LaSalle College, Philadelphia, PA, 1961; Blessed Sacrament College, Cornwells Heights, PA, 1959; Allentown College, Center Valley, PA, 1965; Alvernia College, Reading, PA, 1965; St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, PA, 1970; Sacred Heart Parish, Philadelphia, PA, 1979; St. Joachim Parish, Philadelphia, PA, 1979.