

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission is called by God to follow Jesus Christ, evangelizing the poor in the spirit and after the manner of St. Vincent de Paul.

The works of the Province are evangelization of the poor include service to the poor and assistance in the ministerial and personal formation of clergy and laity. Each member of the Province commits himself to living the evangelical counsels as expressed in the vows of the Congregation.

Sexual misconduct by a member of the Province, specifically sexual abuse of a minor, is a most serious offense against God and a violation not only of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church but also of the very mission of the Province and its spirit, which every Vincentian vows to live. Such transgressions are a source of great pain for the victim, the abuser, their families, the Church, the Province, and the larger community.

The Province denounces all forms of sexual misconduct by its members and, in particular, the sexual abuse of a minor. The Province will not tolerate such, under any circumstances. The Province takes seriously its obligation to respond immediately in a compassionate, responsible and just manner to all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by its members and to provide an environment that supports, heals, and safeguards minors.

Anyone who wishes to have a copy of the Province's "Policy and Procedures Concerning Sexual Abuse of a Minor" should contact the Province's Survivor Assistance Coordinator. Anyone with information about abuse of a minor by a member of the Province is strongly encouraged to contact the Survivor Assistance Coordinator of the Province.

Survivor Assistance Coordinator

Phone: 314-313-0780

Prior to the reconfiguration of the West, South, and Midwest Provinces into the Western Province, each individual province sought and received accreditation by Praesidium, Inc., the national leader in abuse risk management. Most recently, in 2022, the Western Province applied for renewal of the accreditation, and after a thorough review process, the accreditation was renewed through 2027. The initial accreditation means that each province met or exceeded Praesidium's Safety Standards. Praesidium Accreditation

confirms that the (now) Western Province adheres to the highest organizational standards in abuse prevention.

---

## **SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR**

If you believe that you, or someone you know, has been abused by a member of our Province, you are urged to contact our Survivor Assistance Coordinator, Mary Esswein, at 314-313-0780 or by clicking [HERE](#). You are also advised to contact the appropriate law enforcement or child-protection agency in the location in which the incident took place.

---

### **2020 STATEMENT FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR**



**June 12, 2020**

Today the Congregation of the Mission Western Province (the Vincentians) is releasing the names of those members credibly accused of having abused a minor. We are deeply sorry for the actions of these Vincentians and apologize for the pain and suffering they reportedly caused not only to the survivors of their abusive actions, but also their families. The abuse of minors contradicts everything we value as followers of Jesus Christ and our founder, St. Vincent de Paul.

Beginning 30 years ago, the Vincentians began developing policies and procedures for the protection of minors. Since 2005 we have followed the Standards for Accreditation, developed by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Praesidium, Inc., a child-protection consultation company. That same year we received our first accreditation and have renewed it successfully in subsequent years. Those Standards include the proper screening and education of our seminarians concerning child abuse, and the ongoing education of our members about matters relating to the safety of children and keeping the highest standards of ethics in ministry. In addition, the Western Province has a Code of Ethical Behavior in Ministry, which each member must read, sign, and follow.

When we become aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, we initiate an investigation to establish the credibility of the allegation, always favoring the voice of the alleged survivor, unless there is strong evidence to the contrary. By “credible allegation” we mean an allegation that, after careful investigation, there is a preponderance of evidence that the allegation is more likely true than not.

We encourage those bringing allegations forward to immediately contact local law enforcement agencies. Our Misconduct Review Board and our Survivor Assistance Coordinator stand ready to hear these allegations and offer support for healing of the hurt that our members may have caused.

We have also developed, and continue to develop, procedures for dealing with our members who have had credible allegations of having abused a minor. When we receive an allegation of abuse by a Vincentian priest or brother, he is immediately suspended from ministry while an investigation takes place. If, after a thorough investigation, the allegation is found to be credible, that member is immediately removed from ministry and placed under supervision, with no access to children. In 2005 we established an independent Misconduct Review Board, to advise the Provincial about both the allegations we receive and the supervision of members who have credible allegations against them.

A few words about the list we are publishing today. It is the result of an investigation by Fidelity Consultants, LLC, which provided the following statement:

*“Fidelity Consultants, LLC (“Fidelity”) is an independent firm, comprised of three former agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with expertise in conducting forensic reviews. Fidelity was provided complete, unsupervised access to the files of current, former, and deceased clergy maintained in St. Louis and in the Chicago archives of the Congregation of the Mission Western Province from 1950 to the present. Fidelity confirmed there are no clerics with substantiated allegations of abusing minors in active ministry in the Congregation of the Mission Western Province.”*

Names are included on this list if there is a credible allegation against them. Their inclusion does not necessarily mean they were charged with a crime by law enforcement officials or were found guilty of any crime. While we believe this list is complete, it is possible that there is information that we are not aware of. If additional credible allegations come to light, they will be added to this list.

Again, we apologize for any pain and suffering some of our members may have caused in the past. We hope by publishing this list we will exhibit the transparency and accountability that is necessary for all those who serve God’s people, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Anyone with information about the abuse of a minor by a member of the Province is strongly encouraged to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator of the

Province:

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
Congregation of the Mission Western Province  
314-313-0780

Very Rev. Ray Van Dorpe, C.M.  
Provincial Superior

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES

- [CM Policy on Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Persons-1](#)
- [Provincial-Policy-Code-of-Ethical-and-Professional-Behavior-in-Ministry-for-Members](#)
- [Pope Francis' Address to the Members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors \(May 5, 2023\)](#)
- [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People \(2018\)](#)
- [Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priest or Deacons \(2006\)](#)
- [Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, \*Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela\* \(2001\)](#)
- [2002 CMSM Statement of the Assembly, "Improving Pastoral Care and Accountability In Response to the Tragedy of Sexual Abuse" \(2002\)](#)
- [Praesidium Accreditation Standards \(2020\)](#)
- [Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter Issued Motu Proprio, "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" \(2019\)](#)

### LIST OF THOSE WITH CREDIBLE / SUBSTANTIAL ACCUSATIONS OF ABUSE OF A MINOR.

#### **JAMES BEIGHLIE, CM**



James Beighlie, CM convicted for possession of child pornography

Birth: 1951

Ordination: 1979

Status of individual: Removed from ministry and serving a five-year prison sentence (starting in 2023)

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 2008-2021

Abuse reported: 2021

Removed from ministry: 2021

Charged: 2021

Sentenced: 2023

Pastoral Assignments:

DePaul Hospital in St. Louis

Vincent Gray Academy in East St. Louis

St. Thomas Aquinas/Mercy High School in St. Louis

Our Lady Queen of Peace in House Springs, MO

St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis, MO

**JAMES CAIRNS, CM**



**JOHN JOSEPH CASEY, CM**



**STANLEY CONNER, CM**



**PHILIP COURY, CM**



**JAMES DIETE, CM**



**WARREN DISCON, CM**



**JOHN FARRIS, CM**



**RICHARD LAUSE, CM**



**J DENNIS MARTIN, CM**



**LOUIS METEYE, CM**



**FRANCIS MURPHY, CM**



THOMAS O'HERN, CM	+
THOMAS PARROTT, CM	+
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, CM	+
JOHN RUHL, CM	+
DANIEL SCHULTE, CM	+
JAMES STEINBACH, CM	+
THOMAS THELIN, CM	+
ANDREW WILLEMSSEN, CM	+



**Congregation of the Mission Western Province**  
**3701 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108 | (314) 344-1184**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM**



© Copyright 2021 – All Rights Reserved – **Donate Now**