



Diocese of Oakland

Priests, deacons and religious brothers credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

Feb. 18, 2019

Dear parishioners and friends of the Oakland Diocese,

With a heavy heart, I am publishing the names of 20 diocesan priests, 22 religious order priests, deacons and brothers and three priests from other dioceses who have worked in the Diocese of Oakland and have had credible accusations of sexual abuse of minors. The only correct number is "0." However, there are right now more than 120 faithful, active and dedicated priests serving our 500,000 Catholics in our two-county diocese. We are on duty daily to serve you.

There has been no credible incident of abuse of a minor by a priest or deacon of the Diocese of Oakland since 1988. We do not have complete records regarding the priests, deacons, and brothers who served in our diocese but are from other dioceses or religious orders. I can assure that today, no priest or deacon who is in active ministry in the Diocese of Oakland has a credible allegation of abuse of a minor.

My first reaction in seeing the list of names of priests who have abused, is one of deep shame. These are monstrous crimes, committed by priests who are supposed to model virtue and grace, not sin and harm. By publishing this list, I am making an "Act of Contrition" on behalf of my church.

I promised to publish a list, not to reopen the wounds of survivors, but to declare, "We have nothing to hide." It is a "living list," and will be updated as needed.

I hope this will help bring healing to those who have suffered. I renew our offer of counseling, therapy, support and outreach to survivors. The Diocese has worked with survivors of sexual abuse since the 1990s. In 2008, a healing garden was dedicated by Bishop Allen Vigneron on a plaza of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

I have met with survivors personally. I have seen and heard their pain. I have witnessed the damage abusers have committed. A priest is supposed to be a man who leads people to God. But, like some physicians who use their skills to take away life through abortion or assisted suicide, so some priests have used their position of trust to take away faith and destroy a child's innocence. This is so very wrong.

At the heart of this is SIN. Sin is real. It is a moral calamity. We as a church, and as priests, need to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. We need to listen to him, not the Evil One. Sin is not the last word. We believe in Christ's power to heal.

I pray the public acknowledgement of the sinful actions on the part of some priests will help many of us to find healing and hope, to restore our trust in the church, and to repair the damage caused to the reputation of so many good priests. The needs of victims and survivors, and the protection of children and vulnerable adults is our first priority.

+Michael Barber S.J.

Most Reverend Michael Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland



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Priests, deacons and religious brothers credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

Feb. 18, 2019

This list includes priests, deacons and religious brothers who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors and who have lived in the Diocese of Oakland going back to Jan. 13, 1962, when the Diocese was founded. The Diocese of Oakland includes Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Prior to 1962 these two counties were part of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

There are 45 names on this list. Of those, 20 were priests of the Diocese of Oakland. Of those individuals, 14 are deceased. Of the remaining six men, none are functioning publicly as a priest. They cannot appear in public as a priest or perform any public acts as a priest. One is excommunicated and one is laicized; both are no longer affiliated with the Diocese of Oakland. The other four have been directed to lives of prayer and penance; the Diocese is providing minimal sustenance for them and any retirement benefits required by law. A list of assignments for these 20 men can be found at www.oakdiocese.org/credibly-accused.

The Diocese does not have the ability to monitor priests or deacons from other dioceses, or men who are members of religious orders. There are 22 men included who were or are members of religious orders. Three priests from other dioceses are included on the list. Bishop Barber has restricted all of these men from functioning in ministerial activity in the Diocese of Oakland.

This list will be updated as we receive additional information. Anyone with information concerning an allegation of sexual misconduct by a clergy member or any diocesan employee should contact the local authority, i.e. police or sheriff department and the chancellor for the Diocese of Oakland, Stephen Wilcox, swilcox@oakdiocese.org or 510-267-8334.

Priests of the Oakland Diocese credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

Assignments may be found at www.oakdiocese.org/credibly-accused

Jeffrey N. Acebo

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland May 24, 1986
Abuse Occurred: 1986 - 1988
Removed from Ministry: April 2002
Status: Prayer and Penance

Thomas Duong Binh-Minh

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland August 24, 1990
Abuse Occurred: 1987
Removed from Ministry: April 2002
Status: Last known location Concord CA

Vincent I. Breen

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 6, 1936
Abuse Occurred: 1950s - 1980s
Removed from Ministry: Resigned March 1, 1982
Status: Deceased Dec. 31, 1986

Donald E. Broderson

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland April 29, 1968
Abuse Occurred: 1970s
Removed from Ministry: Early 1990s
Status: Laicized March 21, 2005; Deceased Sept. 19, 2010

Kenneth J. Cabral

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 15, 1950
Abuse Occurred: 1960s
Removed from Ministry: Retired June 30, 1991
Status: Deceased March 3, 1996

James A. Clark

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 14, 1947
Abuse Occurred: 1971 - 1973
Removed from Ministry: Retired April 29, 1984
Status: Deceased July 27, 1989

Edmond G. Cloutier

Ordained for Diocese of Portland ME June 15, 1946
 Abuse Occurred: 1950s – 1960s
 Removed from Ministry: Retired Dec. 31, 1980
 Status: Deceased April 9, 2003

Hilary Cooper

Incardinated for Diocese of Oakland: October 1, 1976
 Abuse Occurred: 1978
 Removed from Ministry: 1995
 Status: Prayer and Penance

Pearse P. Donovan

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco March 20, 1943
 Abuse Occurred: 1978 - 1980
 Removed from Ministry: Retired 1983
 Status: Deceased September 12, 1986

Joseph Ferreira

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco Jan. 6, 1959
 Abuse Occurred: 1973 - 1974
 Removed from Ministry: Retired Dec. 28, 1998
 Status: Deceased Dec. 21, 2014

Patrick Finnegan

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco Feb. 9, 1952
 Abuse Occurred: 1960s, 1973
 Removed from Ministry: Feb. 6, 1972
 Status: Deceased Sept. 28, 1980

George J. Francis

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 21, 1937
 Abuse Occurred: 1960s, 1972
 Removed from Ministry: Retired April 4, 1986
 Status: Deceased May 4, 1998

Robert E. Freitas

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland May 19, 1972
 Abuse Occurred: 1977, 1980s
 Removed from Ministry: 2002
 Status: Laicized 2007; Deceased Nov. 14, 2011

Stephen M. Kiesle

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland May 19, 1972
 Abuse Occurred: 1970s
 Removed from Ministry: July 1978
 Status: Laicized February 13, 1987

Ronald J. Lagasse

Ordained for Diocese of Oakland May 3, 1969
 Abuse Occurred: 1983 - 1984
 Removed from Ministry: Oct. 2002
 Status: Excommunicated June 14, 2008

Francisco Tarcisio Lanuevo

Incardinated in Diocese of Oakland April 2, 1985
 Abuse Occurred: 1979
 Removed from Ministry: July 29, 1992
 Status: Location unknown

Daniel McLeod

Incardinated in Diocese of Oakland April 16, 1970
 Abuse Occurred: 1969
 Removed from Ministry: Retired Jan. 18, 1987
 Status: Deceased Dec. 17, 2001

Robert F. Ponciroli

Ordained at Detroit MI for Diocese of Oakland April 12, 1969
 Abuse Occurred: 1970s, 1980 - 1981
 Removed from Ministry: Feb. 9, 1995
 Status: Laicized 2005; Deceased Jan. 19, 2009

Arthur A. Ribeiro

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 16, 1950
 Abuse Occurred: 1960s
 Removed from Ministry: Retired Jan. 1, 1992
 Status: Deceased October 18, 2000

Gary B. Tollner

Ordained for Diocese of San Francisco June 10, 1961
 Abuse Occurred: 1960s, 1970s, 1980s
 Removed from Ministry: 1995
 Status: Deceased Feb. 17, 1999

Religious priests and priests from other dioceses who have lived in the Oakland Diocese credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

Roberto Bravo, Order of Preachers (O.P.) (Dominican)
 Mario Cimmarrusti, Franciscan Friars (O.F.M.)
 Virand Coutts, Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)
 Bernard Dabbene, Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)

J. Patrick Foley, Diocese of San Diego
 Jerold Lindner, Jesuit Fathers and Brothers (S.J.)
 Gary M. Luiz, Society of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.)
 Ruben Martinez, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)

James McSorley, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)
William Odom-Green, Diocese of Owensboro
Cornelius Pedraig Leehan, Redemptorist Fathers
(C.Ss.R.)
Richard Presenti, Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)

Alexander Pinter, unknown
Anthony Slane, Redemptorist Fathers (C.Ss.R.)
Robert Van Handel, Franciscan Friars (O.F.M.)
Stephen Whelan, Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)
Gordon Wilcox, Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.)

Religious brothers who have lived in the Oakland Diocese credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

Salvatore Billante, Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)
Donald Eagleson, Brothers of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.)
Joseph (Jesse) Gutierrez, Brothers of the Christian Schools (F.C.S.)
John Moriarty, Brothers of the Christian Schools (F.C.S.)

Lawrence O'Brien, Brothers of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.)
Raimond Rose, Brothers of the Christian Schools (F.C.S.)
Francis Verngren, Brothers of the Christian Schools (F.C.S.)
Terrence Wong, Society of Mary (S.M.)

Credible accusation

There is no standard definition for a "credible accusation." For the Diocese of Oakland, we used the following criteria to determine if a name should be placed on this list.

The Diocese must have knowledge of an allegation made against the person to be named and the allegation must include all the following.

- The allegation involved sexual abuse of a minor (under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged abuse).
- The alleged perpetrator was a priest, deacon, religious brother, or religious sister either at the time of the alleged abuse or sometime after the alleged abuse.
- The alleged abuse is claimed to have been committed:
 - within the geographic jurisdiction of the Diocese of Oakland, or
 - by a priest or deacon of the Diocese of Oakland, or
 - by a seminarian or lay person affiliated with the Diocese who was later ordained, or
 - by a priest or deacon who is known to have lived in Alameda or Contra Costa counties and who has been identified by another diocese, a religious order, law enforcement or a court of law as being credibly accused.

- After review of the reasonably available, relevant information, there is reason to believe the allegation is more likely than not to be true. The process for evaluating whether an allegation is credible was not a legal process. Examples of information used to ascertain credibility include, but are not limited to, admissions by the accused, criminal convictions, other types of legal actions, patterns of conduct, and prior determinations closer to the time of the alleged sexual abuse or the time when the matter was first investigated. The determination of credibility of an allegation does not establish that a crime was committed.

Financial impact

Since 2002, when the Diocese first began to keep financial records related to ministry for survivors, the Diocese has provided approximately \$124,000 for the survivors' ministry and slightly more than \$1.325 million in direct support of survivors.

The Diocese has responsibility for the sustenance of the four priests from the Diocese who have been restricted to lives of prayer and penance. This sustenance is mandated by Church law. Since 2004, the Diocese has spent slightly less than \$600,000 for the care of priests restricted from public ministry.