

STEPS TAKEN TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

AND

LIST OF CREDIBLY ACCUSED PRIESTS INCARDINATED IN THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE

THE STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN

The Catholic Church and the Diocese of Orange are deeply committed and remain vigilant in protecting and caring for children, our most cherished resource. The Church has worked hard to protect children and to ensure their safety. Back in 2002, the Diocese of Orange implemented a comprehensive approach to ensure that children and teens are as safe as possible. The Diocese employs a comprehensive background screening for all adults likely to be in contact with children, including background checks and fingerprinting.

Moreover, it is important to note the following facts:

- The Diocese of Orange cooperates fully with law enforcement and appropriate agencies in reporting alleged incidents of sexual abuse of minors.
- Since 2003, the Diocese has had an Oversight Review Board to whom allegations are presented and evaluated. The board makes recommendations to the Diocesan Bishop as regards how to proceed in individual cases.
- Every member of the clergy and all diocesan employees have read and signed the diocesan policy on sexual misconduct.
- Before any man is accepted as a seminarian, he must be deemed fit, having undergone extensive psychological testing.
- Criminal background checks are conducted on all prospective seminarian, priests or religious members of the clergy
- A telephone reporting line has been in operation for 15 years and continues to operate with call response as immediate as possible.

Current statistics

In the two-year period encompassing 2017 and 2018, the Diocese of Orange performed background screenings on the following:

- Adults (lay people): 96,054
- Priests: 268
- Deacons: 115
- Teachers: 2,936
- School employees and volunteers: 27,360

We believe one key to preventing **child abuse** is education and **awareness**. In 2017-2018 in the Diocese of Orange, 53,491 children have participated in awareness programs.

A LIST OF CREDIBLY ACCUSED PRIESTS INCARDINATED IN THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE

Members and former members of the clergy removed from ministry

We regretfully inform you that credible allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor were made against the following men, who are or were incardinated (inscribed) in the Diocese of Orange. Each allegation received after 2001 was presented to the Oversight Review Board, which made its recommendations to the Diocesan Bishop.

Removed from ministry and returned to the lay state:

- Christian Anderson
- Michael Harris
- John Lenihan
- Daniel J. Murray
- Michael Pecharich
- Gerald Plesetz
- Caesar Salazar

Suspended from ministry and currently seeking to be returned to the lay state

- Dominic Nguyen

Removed from ministry (forbidden from presenting himself as a priest or from performing any priestly functions):

- Franklin Buckman: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Richard Coughlin: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Denis Lyons: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Robert Foley: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Jerome Henson: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Henry Perez: administrative leave until he died.
- Eleuterio V. Ramos: administrative leave until he died.
- John Ruhl: life of prayer and penance until he died.
- Gerardo Tanilong: life of prayer and penance until he died.
- Siegfried Francis Widera: administrative leave until he died.

For a list of priests credibly accused before the creation of the Diocese of Orange in 1976, please visit the Archdiocese of Los Angeles website at: <http://1811.la-archdiocese.org/wordpress/2018-update/>

Original posting: August, 2016

First revision: 26 November 2018

Second revision: 30 March 2019