



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

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

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:
 - o 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.

