

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 in regards on 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 seminarians, priests or religious members of the clergy.
 - A telephone reporting line has been in operation for fifteen years and continues to operate with call response as immediate as possible.

Current statistics

The Diocese of Orange performed background screenings on the following:

Screened to date since 2002

- Adults (lay people): 99,235

Screened and serving in various ministries from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

- Priests in active ministry: 255
- Deacons: 131
- Candidates for Ordination, Seminarians and Diaconate - 65
- Educators 2,194
- School and parish employees and volunteers: 20,961

We believe one key to preventing **child abuse** is education and **awareness**. In 2018-2019 in the Diocese of Orange, 65,714 children 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 to date

- 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

- Richard Coughlin
- 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.
- 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.
- Denis Lyons: life of prayer and penance. He is regularly visited and monitored.
- Henry Perez: administrative leave until his death.
- Eleuterio V. Ramos: administrative leave until his death.
- John Ruhl: life of prayer and penance until his death.
- Gerardo Tanilong: life of prayer and penance until his death.
- Siegfried Francis Widera: administrative leave until his death.

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/>

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