

DELAYS/CLOSINGS

Family fights to clear name of acc...

CLOS

Family of Jesuit priest files canon law appeal to Vatican over accused priests list

Fr. Patrick Koch, the former president and principal of Jesuit prep school in Dallas, was named on a list of "credibly accused" priests.

DALLAS — Attorney David Finn confirmed to WFAA that the family of Fr. Patrick Koch — a former presic and principal at Jesuit prep school in Dallas — has filed a cannon law appeal to the Catholic Diocese o Dallas, the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and the Vatican over Koch being included on a list of priests cre accused of sexual abuse.

The appeal was hand-delivered to the diocese on Monday before close of business, according to Finn

The Koch family met with Bishop Edward Burns last Friday to discuss Koch being named on the list. Fi said that the meeting was very cordial and the family said Burns "showed remarkable and unpreceder courage" in meeting with them.

In late January, the Catholic Diocese of Dallas released names of priests "credibly accused" of sexual abuse of minors over the last seven decades. Koch, who was principal at Jesuit from 1972-1979 and president from 1979-1980, was one of 31 priests named.

RELATED: [Dallas Diocese releases 31 names of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse: Here are names](#)

Finn said the appeal was represented by more than 25 members of the Koch family across the countr attorney also said the family has also enlisted the help of a cannon lawyer based out of Rome.

"We want to make this very clear: this is not an attack on any victims," Finn said. "We encourage any a victims of abuse to come forward. This is about transparency to the process and fairness. My concern whether there was due process. We don't know who said what, where, or when. The jury is still out on He's [Koch] not here to protect his good name."

Finn anticipated that more priests or families of priests to join this appeal.

The diocese released a statement from Burns on Tuesday afternoon:

I appreciated my meeting with the family and I respect their concern for their uncle. As you know, the process to compile this list began with an outside group of former state and federal law enforcement officers who went through all of our priest files and identified those which contained allegations of the sexual abuse of minors. The Diocesan Review Board, which includes local lay experts in law enforcen

clinical psychology, law, and medicine, then reviewed those allegations and recommended credible allegations of the sexual abuse of minors for disclosure on the list I released on January 31 to the Catholic community.

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Video: WFAA

Plano deploys monitors at city parks to reinforce social distancing

"We're not the police, however, we do have rules that we need to enforce," Kelley Crimmins said.

PLANO, Texas — We are all searching for space to stretch out our legs during this coronavirus outbreak. Being out in the open beats being crammed in our homes any day.

Cities are beginning to realize that residents are taking to parks for that physical outlet. In Dallas, overcrowding at parks led the City to close off vehicle parking. That has somewhat limited the number of people heading to Dallas parks where trails remain open.

One thing has become clear: social distancing is harder to enforce when people are on the move.

The City of Plano is employing a different tactic.

Wednesday, the City deployed monitors to most of its parks. The monitors consist of city employees who work in the parks department and library staff.

WFAA met up with Kelley Crimmins, who is the community outreach specialist at Windhaven Meadow in west Plano.

"We're not the police, however, we do have rules that we need to enforce," Crimmins said.

Crimmins said she will walk the trails and give friendly reminders to people at the park of social distancing. It is OK for families to stay together but people need to be cognizant of those around them.

"I want to make sure they're going along on the trail and moving, and they're not blocking the trails," Crimmins said.

The larger parks like Oak Point Nature Preserve and Arbor Hills will have more than one city employee roaming the trails. The larger parks have seen large numbers specifically on the weekends.

"There's plenty of space for everybody. We're just encouraging our residents to do the right thing," said Ron Smith, Parks and Recreation Director.

In Plano, dog parks are closed and so are sports leagues and practices. The City hopes this type of monitoring works and that people listen. But if it doesn't work and the parks remain packed, closing them is in the realm of possibility.