

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Congregation of the Mission

Western Province

[June 12, 2020; downloaded December 7, 2020]

The Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission is called by God to follow Jesus Christ, evangelizing the poor in the spirit and after the manner of St. Vincent de Paul. The works of the Province are evangelization of the poor, including service to the poor, and assistance in the ministerial and personal formation of clergy and laity. Each Member of the Province commits himself to living the evangelical counsels as expressed in the vows of the Congregation.

Sexual misconduct by a Member of the Province, specifically sexual abuse of a minor, is a most serious offense against God and a violation not only of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church, but also of the very mission of the Province and its spirit, which every Vincentian vows to live. Such transgressions are a source of great pain for the victim, the abuser, their families, the Church, the Province and the larger community.

The Province denounces all forms of sexual misconduct by its Members and, in particular, the sexual abuse of a minor. The Province will not tolerate such, under any circumstances. The Province takes seriously its obligation to respond immediately in a compassionate, responsible and just manner to all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by its Members and to provide an environment that supports, heals and safeguards minors.

Anyone who wishes to have a copy of the Province's "Policy and Procedures Concerning Sexual Abuse of a Minor" should contact the Province's Misconduct Administrator. Anyone with information about abuse of a minor by a Member of the Province is strongly encouraged to contact the Misconduct Administrator of the Province.

Misconduct Administrator

13663 Rider Trail North

Earth City, MO 63045

Phone: 314.344.1184

Prior to the reconfiguration of the West, South and Midwest Provinces into the Western Province, each individual province sought and received accreditation by Praesidium, Inc., the national leader in abuse risk management. This accreditation means that each province met or exceeded Praesidium's Safety Standards. Praesidium Accreditation confirms that the (now) Western Province adheres to the highest organizational standards in abuse prevention.

Statement from the Provincial Superior

June 12, 2020

Today the Congregation of the Mission Western Province (the Vincentians) is releasing the names of those members credibly accused of having abused a minor. We are deeply sorry for the actions of these Vincentians and apologize for the pain and suffering they reportedly caused not only to the survivors of their abusive actions, but also their families. The abuse of minors contradicts everything we value as followers of Jesus Christ and our founder, St. Vincent de Paul.

Beginning 30 years ago, the Vincentians began developing policies and procedures for the protection of minors. Since 2005 we have followed the Standards for Accreditation, developed by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Praesidium, Inc., a child-protection consultation company. That same year we received our first accreditation and have renewed it successfully in subsequent years. Those Standards include the proper screening and education of our seminarians concerning child abuse, and the ongoing education of our members about matters relating to the safety of children and keeping the highest standards of ethics in ministry. In addition, the Western Province has a Code of Ethical Behavior in Ministry, which each member must read, sign, and follow.

When we become aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, we initiate an investigation to establish the credibility of the allegation, always favoring the voice of the alleged survivor, unless there is strong evidence to the contrary. By "credible allegation" we mean an allegation that, after careful investigation, there is a preponderance of evidence that the allegation is more likely true than not.

We encourage those bringing allegations forward to immediately contact local law enforcement agencies. Our Misconduct Review Board and our Survivor Assistance

Coordinator stand ready to hear these allegations and offer support for healing of the hurt that our members may have caused.

We have also developed, and continue to develop, procedures for dealing with our members who have had credible allegations of having abused a minor. When we receive an allegation of abuse by a Vincentian priest or brother, he is immediately suspended from ministry while an investigation takes place. If, after a thorough investigation, the allegation is found to be credible, that member is immediately removed from ministry and placed under supervision, with no access to children. In 2005 we established an independent Misconduct Review Board, to advise the Provincial about both the allegations we receive and the supervision of members who have credible allegations against them.

A few words about the list we are publishing today. It is the result of an investigation by Fidelity Consultants, LLC, which provided the following statement:

“Fidelity Consultants, LLC (“Fidelity”) is an independent firm, comprised of three former agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with expertise in conducting forensic reviews. Fidelity was provided complete, unsupervised access to the files of current, former, and deceased clergy maintained in St. Louis and in the Chicago archives of the Congregation of the Mission Western Province from 1950 to the present. Fidelity confirmed there are no clerics with substantiated allegations of abusing minors in active ministry in the Congregation of the Mission Western Province.”

Names are included on this list if there is a credible allegation against them. Their inclusion does not necessarily mean they were charged with a crime by law enforcement officials or were found guilty of any crime. While we believe this list is complete, it is possible that there is information that we are not aware of. If additional credible allegations come to light, they will be added to this list.

Again, we apologize for any pain and suffering some of our members may have caused in the past. We hope by publishing this list we will exhibit the transparency and accountability that is necessary for all those who serve God’s people, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Anyone with information about the abuse of a minor by a member of the Province is strongly encouraged to contact the Misconduct Administrator of the Province:

Misconduct Administrator
Congregation of the Mission
13663 Rider Trail North
Earth City, MO 63045
314-344-1184

Very Rev. Raymond Van Dorpe, C.M.
Provincial Superior

List of those with credible/substantial accusation of abuse of a minor.

Cairns, James

Casey, John Joseph

Conner, Stanley

Coury, Philip

Diete, James

Discon, Warren

Farris, John

Lause, Richard

Martin, J Dennis

Meteye, Louis

Murphy, Francis

O'Hern, Thomas

Parrot, Thomas

Rodriguez, Carlos

Ruhl, John

Schulte, Daniel

Steinbach, James

Thelin, Thomas

Willemsen, Andrew

James Cairns, CM single allegation

Birth: 1941

Ordination: 1969

Status of individual: separated from CM in 2001

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1970s

Alleged abuse reported: 2006

Removed from ministry: N/A – left CM prior to allegation

Pastoral Assignments:

Queen of Angels Seminary, San Fernando, CA

St. Vincent Seminary, Montebello, CA

St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA

St. Vincent Church, Los Angeles, CA

Queen of Angels-Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, Los Angeles, CA

John Joseph Casey, CM single allegation

Birth: 1904

Ordination: 1932

Status of individual: Deceased 2000

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1940s

Alleged abuse reported: 2004

Removed from ministry: N/A – deceased when allegation received

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Church, Los Angeles, CA

DePaul Hospital, St. Louis, MO

St. Patrick Church, LaSalle, IL

All Souls Church, Pampa, TX

Sacred Heart Church, Cotulla, TX

St. Stephen Church, New Orleans, LA

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, San Francisco, CA

St. Vincent Seminary, Montebello, CA

DePaul Center, Montebello, CA

Stanley Conner, CM multiple allegations

Birth: 1946

Ordination: N/A

Status of individual: Deceased 2008

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 1987, 1993, 2004

Removed from ministry: 1987

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Catherine Laboure Parish, St. Louis, MO

Philip Cury, CM multiple allegations

Birth: 1940

Ordination: 1971

Status of individual: removed from ministry and lives under supervision

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 2010

Removed from ministry: 2010

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Seminary, Beaumont, TX

St. Louis Prep Seminary, St. Louis, MO

St. John Seminary, Kansas City, MO

St. Vincent Seminary, Lemont, IL

Catholic Charities, Joliet, IL

St. Mary Church, Las Animas, CO

St. Anthony Church, Aguilar, CO

Christ the King Mission, LaVeta, CO

James Diete, CM multiple allegations

Birth: 1944

Ordination: 1980

Status of individual: left CM and priesthood 1995

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 1987

Removed from ministry: 1987 (after treatment at St. Luke Institute, he was returned to ministry 1988-91, when his faculties were removed.)

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Seminary, Lemont, IL

St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO

Most Precious Blood Church, Denver, CO

Warren Discon, CM single allegation

Birth: 1921

Ordination: 1955

Status of individual: deceased 1993

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1970s

Alleged abuse reported: 2005

Removed from ministry: N/A – deceased when allegation received

Pastoral Assignments:

DePaul Academy HS, Chicago, IL

St. John Seminary, San Antonio, TX

Central Catholic HS, Beaumont, TX

Holy Trinity Church, Dallas, TX

St. Vincent Church, St. Louis, MO

St. Vincent Church, Kansas City, MO

St. Louis Prep Seminary, St. Louis, MO

St. Louise de Marillac Church, Arabi, LA

Archbishop Chapelle HS, Metairie, LA

John Farris, CM single allegation

Birth: 1921

Ordination: 1949

Status of individual: deceased 2003

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1950s

Alleged abuse reported: 2003

Removed from ministry: N/A – deceased when allegation received

Pastoral Assignments:

St. John Seminary, Camarillo, CA

Queen of Angels Seminary, San Fernando, CA

St. Louis Prep Seminary, St. Louis, MO

St. Patrick Church, LaSalle, IL

St. Vincent Church, St. Louis, MO

St. Mary Seminary, Perryville, MO

Christ the Savior Church, Brewer, MO

St. Gabriel Church, St. Louis, MO

Richard Lause, CM single allegation

Birth: 1950

Ordination: 1977

Status of individual: removed from ministry and lives under supervision

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 2003

Removed from ministry: 2003

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Seminary, Lemont, IL

St. Louis Prep Seminary, St. Louis, MO

St. Margaret Mary Church, Cortez, CO

St. Catherine Laboure Church, St. Louis, MO

St. Vincent Church, Cape Girardeau, MO

St. Vincent Church, Perryville, MO

J Dennis Martin, CM multiple allegations

Birth: 1935

Ordination: 1962

Status of individual: deceased 2014

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1960s & 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 2003

Removed from ministry: 2003

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Seminary, Lemont, IL

St. John Seminary, Kansas City, MO

St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO

St. Mary Seminary, Houston, TX

St. Mary Seminary, Perryville, MO

Southern Province Provincial

Louis Meteye, CM multiple allegations

Birth: 1912

Ordination: 1938

Status of individual: deceased 1979

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1960s

Alleged abuse reported: 2003

Removed from ministry: N/A – deceased when allegation received

Pastoral Assignments:

St. John Seminary, Kansas City, MO

St. Francis Seminary, Bethany, OK

St. Vincent HS Seminary, Cape Girardeau, MO

St. Mary Seminary, Houston, TX

St. Katherine Church, New Orleans, LA

St. Stephen Church, New Orleans, LA

St. Joseph Church, New Orleans, LA

St. Louise de Marillac Church, Arabi, LA

Francis Murphy, CM single allegation

Birth: 1902

Ordination: 1930

Status of individual: deceased 1970

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1960s

Alleged abuse reported: 2008

Removed from ministry: N/A – deceased when allegation received

Pastoral Assignments:

Regina Cleri Seminary, Tucson, AZ

St. John Seminary, Kansas City, MO

Prep Seminary, Los Angeles, CA

Prep Seminary, St. Louis, MO

DePaul University, Chicago, IL

St. Joseph Church, New Orleans, LA

St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO

Cardinal Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Thomas O'Hern, CM multiple allegations

Born: 1950

Ordained: 1977

Status of individual: deceased 2014

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 1991

Participated in residential program in St. Louis, Nov. 1991-Mar. 1992;
returned to ministry in Kenya, 1994.

Removed from ministry: 2004; left CM 2006

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Seminary, Cape Girardeau, MO

St. Vincent Seminary, Lemont, IL

Christ the King Seminary, Nyeri, Kenya

DePaul Center, Nairobi, Kenya

Thomas Parrott, CM multiple allegations

Born: 1922

Ordained: 1950

Status of individual: deceased 1996

Estimated timeframe of abuse: late 1950s to mid 1960s

Alleged abuse reported: 2002

Removed from ministry: N/A – he incardinated in 1974 into the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Francis Seminary, Bethany, OK

DePaul Academy, Chicago, IL

St. John Seminary, Kansas City, MO

St. Vincent HS Seminary, Cape Girardeau, MO

Carlos Rodriguez, CM multiple allegations

Born: 1955

Ordained: 1986

Status of individual: laicized 1998; served 4 years in prison; on sex offender registry

Estimated timeframe of abuse: late 1980s to early 1990s

Alleged abuse reported: 1987

Removed from ministry: 1987, sent to St. Luke Institute; 1988, permitted to engage in limited ministry with adults; 1992, permitted to live outside community; 1992, faculties terminated; 1996, requested laicization and granted 1998.

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Church, Los Angeles, CA

John Ruhl, CM multiple allegations

Born: 1937

Ordained: 1964

Status of individual: deceased 2018

Estimated timeframe of abuse: late 1960s to early 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: between 1993 and 2004

Removed from ministry: N/A – incardinated into the Diocese of Orange
1983

Pastoral Assignments:

Queen of Angels Seminary, San Fernando, CA

St. Vincent Seminary, Montebello, CA

St. Vincent Parish, Huntington Beach, CA

Daniel Schulte, CM single allegation

Born: 1952

Ordained: 1987

Status of individual: deceased 2020

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 2000s

Alleged abuse reported: 2005

Removed from ministry: 2005

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Vincent Parish, Cape Girardeau, MO

St. Alexius Hospital, Chicago, IL

St. Vincent Parish, Chicago, IL

St. Vincent Parish, Perryville, MO

James Steinbach, CM single allegation

Born: 1939

Ordained: N/A

Status of individual: deceased 2007

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1960s

Alleged abuse reported: 2007

Removed from ministry: 2007

Pastoral Assignments:

Community farm, Perryville, MO

St. Vincent Parish, Perryville, MO

St. Stephen's Parish, New Orleans, LA

Thomas Thelin, CM single allegation

Born: 1944

Ordained: 1973

Status of individual: separated from Vincentians 1985; civil marriage 1991;
dismissed from

Vincentians 2002

Estimated timeframe of abuse: 1980s

Alleged abuse reported: 1990

Removed from ministry: N/A – separated from Vincentians prior to receipt
of allegation

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Louise de Marillac Church, Arabi, LA

St. Vincent Seminary, Beaumont, TX

St. Leo Church, San Antonio, TX

Andrew Willemsen, CM multiple allegations

Born: 1928

Ordained: 1954

Status of individual: returned to Holland 1988; dismissed from priesthood 2004

Estimated timeframe of abuse: between 1968-1980

Alleged abuse reported: 2002

Removed from ministry: N/A – dispensed from Vows 1982 and joined diocesan clergy

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO

St. John Seminary, Camarillo, CA

St. Mary Seminary, Houston, TX