

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND DENNIS J. SULLIVAN, BISHOP OF CAMDEN, UPON RELEASING NAMES OF CREDIBLY ACCUSED CLERICS

In keeping with a promise made by the Roman Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, I am today releasing the names of 56 priests and one deacon of the Diocese of Camden who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors. The other bishops from New Jersey are simultaneously releasing the names of priests from their dioceses.

In the Diocese of Camden, these 56 priests are a small percentage of the more than 800 priests who have faithfully served the people of South Jersey since the diocese was founded in 1937.

As to the names on the attached list, it includes those who admitted to the abuse, those who were found guilty after a trial in the church courts or the civil courts, and others against whom the evidence was so overwhelming as to be virtually unquestionable. Most of these incidents occurred in the 1970's and the 1980's and involved male teenagers. It should also be noted that the majority of these priests, all of whose names have been provided to local law enforcement authorities, are dead.

In many cases, a single allegation from 30 or 40 years ago was the only such charge that had ever been made against the priest, and was received after he had died. Thus, he was unable to respond to the allegation.

Not included in this list are four allegations from the 1960's and 1970's that are being referred to the Diocesan Review Board for a determination as to their credibility. The Review Board, which consists mainly of laypeople who are not employed by the Diocese or any of the parishes, will be presented with all of the available evidence, and I have full confidence in its recommendations as to whether a supplemental report to include the names of other priests or deacons will be warranted.

A thorough reading of this list finds that it is in accord with in-depth reviews, such as the research study conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, which appear to confirm that the pervasiveness of this phenomenon was in the latter part of the 1900's. For example, the last credible report of abuse of a minor by a priest in ministry in the Diocese of Camden occurred

in 1995. This is not in any way to excuse what had happened – and it certainly is not to excuse the failings of bishops and other leaders in the Church at that time.

To be certain, the darkest stain on the Catholic Church in the last century was the sexual abuse of minors by priests. Unfortunately, we have all learned that this “filth,” as Pope Benedict correctly called it, was more pervasive than anyone imagined, or even thought possible.

We know the release of these names may cause others who have been abused to come forward. With that in mind, the Dioceses of New Jersey encourage victims to register with the recently announced Independent Victims Compensation Program when that program is launched in the coming months. The program will handle submissions, evaluations, and settlements of individual claims of sexual abuse of a minor. The program will operate independently of the participating dioceses. The Administrators of the program will have complete autonomy to determine eligibility of individual claims and the amount of compensation for victims who present a claim.

The dioceses worked together to establish a common statewide protocol for the Independent Victims Compensation Program to facilitate access to the program by victims. All victims, no matter when the offense occurred, will be eligible to participate in the Independent Victims Compensation Program.

The priest sex abuse scandal is not new, and neither is the Church’s response to it. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the Charter for the Protection of Children in 2002, and it has been implemented throughout New Jersey since that time. In addition, in New Jersey, since December of 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding has been in place that facilitates the reporting of child sexual abuse to local county prosecutors. This diocese has done all in its power to make our schools, parishes and ministries safe havens for everyone, and it will continue to do so.

As we have done often, we pray that God will continue to look after the victims and survivors of the priest sex abuse scandal. We ask that He give them hope, provide them with healing and bring comfort to their wounded souls.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D.
Bishop of Camden

Clergy Disclosure List

Diocesan Priests

Joseph Barber

Born:	February 8, 1933
Ordained:	1961
Status:	Deceased

Claude J. Bender

Born:	August 6, 1932
Ordained:	1965
Status:	Deceased

John P. Bernard

Born:	January 5, 1939
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Removed from ministry

Henry S. Blaszczyński

Born:	February 5, 1916
Ordained:	1941
Status:	Deceased

John F. Bloh

Born:	October 13, 1931
Ordained:	1964
Status:	Removed from ministry

John D. Bohrer

Born:	September 21, 1944
Ordained:	1978
Status:	Removed from ministry

Joseph J. Brennan

Born:	May 17, 1914
Ordained:	1944
Status:	Deceased

William B. Cannon

Born:	January 6, 1927
Ordained:	1954
Status:	Deceased

Gerald P. Clements

Born:	March 1, 1941
Ordained:	1970
Status:	Deceased

Norman T. Connelly

Born:	July 2, 1937
Ordained:	1965
Status:	Removed from ministry

John P. Connor

Born:	April 27, 1934
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Removed from ministry

Michael H. D'Amico

Born:	November 1, 1939
Ordained:	1964
Status:	Deceased

Charles J. Davis

Born:	July 23, 1932
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Removed from ministry

Kenneth Demarest

Born:	December 1, 1938
Ordained as deacon:	1976
Status:	Removed from ministry

Vincent A. Doyle

Born:	January 23, 1924
Ordained:	1949
Status:	Deceased

Eldridge T. Evans

Born:	February 18, 1939
Ordained:	1965
Status:	Deceased

Francis J. Flemming

Born:	May 5, 1935
Ordained:	1961
Status:	Deceased

John E. Follett

Born:	January 28, 1951
Ordained:	1978
Status:	Deceased

A. Richard Gerbino

Born:	August 10, 1924
Ordained:	1952
Status:	Deceased

Edward Gillespie

Born:	March 3, 1948
Ordained:	1980
Status:	Deceased

Roy T. Hardin

Born:	March 9, 1937
Ordained:	1964
Status:	Removed from ministry

Thomas M. Harkins

Born:	July 2, 1947
Ordained:	1971
Status:	Removed from ministry

James F. Hopkins

Born:	March 10, 1943
Ordained:	1968
Status:	Removed from ministry

Frank X. Hudson

Born:	September 15, 1944
Ordained:	1974
Status:	Removed from ministry

Edward A. Igle

Born:	June 13, 1947
Ordained:	1974
Status:	Removed from ministry

A. William Johnson

Born:	August 2, 1936
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Left Diocese in 1967 – current whereabouts unknown

John P. Kelly

Born:	October 28, 1930
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Deceased

Charles E. Kuhl

Born:	October 3, 1927
Ordained:	1954
Status:	Deceased

Dermott F. Lyons

Born:	November 14, 1939
Ordained:	1967
Status:	Deceased

Edward Lucano

Born:	November 10, 1923
Ordained:	1949
Status:	Deceased

Patrick J. Madden

Born:	September 3, 1919
Ordained:	1945
Status:	Deceased

Phillip A. Matthews

Born:	May 30, 1939
Ordained:	1967
Status:	Deceased

Francis A. McCloskey

Born:	January 20, 1889
Ordained:	1915
Status:	Deceased

Charles P. McColgan

Born:	July 3, 1930
Ordained:	1964
Status:	Deceased

John J. McElroy

Born:	October 3, 1958
Ordained:	1985
Status:	Removed from ministry

Joseph McGarvey

Born:	July 4, 1925
Ordained:	1950
Status:	Deceased

Francis J. McLaughlin

Born:	September 28, 1930
Ordained:	1962
Status:	Deceased

Joseph Orsini

Born:	June 1, 1937
Ordained:	1964
Status:	Deceased

Peter J. Osinski

Born:	February 8, 1943
Ordained:	1969
Status:	Deceased

Timothy E. Pisik

Born:	February 11, 1947
Ordained:	1974
Status:	Deceased

Walter T. Reilly

Born:	September 19, 1929
Ordained:	1956
Status:	Deceased

Dennis J. Rigney

Born:	August 7, 1914
Ordained:	1942
Status:	Deceased

Philip T. Rigney

Born:	December 21, 1916
Ordained:	1949
Status:	Deceased

Glendon E. Robertson

Born:	December 14, 1927
Ordained:	1957
Status:	Deceased

James Ryan

Born:	June 3, 1940
Ordained:	1966
Status:	Deceased

Francis L. Salamandra

Born:	January 31, 1931
Ordained:	1961
Status:	Removed from ministry

Robert J. Schmid

Born:	July 27, 1945
Ordained:	1971
Status:	Left Diocese in 1978 – current whereabouts unknown

Augustine J. Seidenburg

Born:	April 10, 1922
Ordained:	1948
Status:	Deceased

Joseph E. Shannon

Born:	October 26, 1926
Ordained:	1961
Status:	Deceased

Donal Sheehan

Born:	July 1, 1936
Ordained:	1960
Status:	Removed from ministry

John E. Smith

Born:	May 6, 1943
Ordained:	1969
Status:	Removed from ministry

Walter Smith

Born:	March 22, 1940
Ordained:	1968
Status:	Deceased

Antoine St. Germain

Born:	November 25, 1945
Ordained:	1976
Status:	Deceased

Brendan V. Sullivan

Born:	June 23, 1934
Ordained:	1960
Status:	Deceased

William D. Titmas

Born:	May 30, 1934
Ordained:	1963
Status:	Deceased

Alfred J. Vasapolli

Born:	May 27, 1947
Ordained:	1973
Status:	Removed from ministry

Patrick J. Weaver

Born:	August 20, 1935
Ordained:	1963
Status:	Deceased

