



Office of the Archbishop
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January 16, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today to report on the progress of the Independent Commission's review of the personnel files of the Archdiocese of Anchorage.

But first, to the victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse, I want to say that there are no words that can restore the innocence that was cruelly and unjustly stolen from you. That your trust was betrayed by a priest or other minister of the Church whom you had a right to expect would protect you compounded the harm done to you. It is with humility, sorrow, and shame that I apologize to you, your family, friends, and community in the name of the Church for the grievous harm you suffered.

If you have been sexually abused by a bishop, priest, deacon, or other representatives of the Church and have not yet reported the abuse, please consider disclosing what happened to you. The best way to do so is to report it to your local law enforcement agency. You may also contact the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jenny Michaelson, LBSW, at (907) 297-7786 or jmichaelson@caa-ak.org, and we will do our best to help you and assist with reporting to law enforcement.

On October 23, 2018, Archbishop Etienne established an Independent Commission to review files in the possession of the Archdiocese of Anchorage relating to sexual misconduct since the creation of the Archdiocese in 1966. The members of the Independent Commission appointed by Archbishop Etienne are; Shirley A. Coté, retired Anchorage police captain and retired City of Soldotna chief of police; Rachel Gernat, former prosecutor of crimes against children and adults and current attorney in private practice; and Michael Spaan, former United States Attorney and retired Alaska Superior Court Judge.

The Independent Commission worked diligently and professionally. They have completed their review of all of the files as required by the decree. I am grateful to the members of the Independent Commission.


There is credible evidence to support the belief that fourteen people who have served in the Archdiocese of Anchorage since 1966 engaged in sexual misconduct against *minors and/or vulnerable adults*. I am releasing those names today.

The list of names, together with 1) the Standard to Determine Sexual Misconduct, 2) the Standard to Determine Credible Evidence, 3) the Definition of a Minor, and 4) the Definition of a Vulnerable Adult, are attached to this letter. The Archdiocesan Review Board has reviewed the list and the standards.

The Archdiocese is aware that there may be other instances of sexual misconduct against *minors and/or vulnerable adults* that have not been identified in the Commission's review or that were never reported. If additional information concerning allegations of sexual misconduct of *minors and/or vulnerable adults* are discovered, they will be reviewed by the Independent Commission or its successor.

The work of the Independent Commission has been an effort to uncover the truth. The truth is essential if there is ever to be healing for victim-survivors and our Church. The Archdiocese of Anchorage is committed to the safety of all people with special attention and care for minors and vulnerable adults.

Respectfully and sincerely in Christ,



Cm

Bishop Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.
Apostolic Administrator of Anchorage



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ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

On October 23, 2018, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne issued a Decree Establishing an Independent Commission to Review Files in the possession of the Archdiocese of Anchorage relating to Sexual Misconduct. The Independent Commission was charged with reviewing the files in the possession of the Archdiocese of Anchorage of all ordained and religious men and women who have served on behalf of the Archdiocese of Anchorage since its canonical establishment in 1966. The Independent Commission was also charged with reviewing all files in the possession of the Archdiocese of Anchorage of any representative of the Church where the Archdiocese of Anchorage has received reports of sexual misconduct, including lay volunteers or employees.

The Decree required the Independent Commission to submit a recommended list for publication of the names of the individuals against whom credible allegations of sexual misconduct have been made as well as a list of names of those who have deliberately, or through gross negligence, failed to adequately respond to such misconduct.

1. Definition of Sexual Misconduct.

The Decree defines “sexual misconduct” as any sexually related conduct which is unlawful under the laws of the State of Alaska or of the United States of America, or the canon law of the Catholic Church, including the particular law of the Archdiocese.

2. Standard of Credible Evidence.

The Decree directs the Independent Commission to determine if there is “credible evidence” that sexual misconduct occurred. Credible evidence is defined as the available facts, when viewed in light of surrounding circumstances, would cause a reasonable person to believe the allegation is true.

3. Definition of Minor.

Any person under the age of 18.

4. Definition of a Vulnerable Adult.

According to the Holy See, a “vulnerable adult” is anyone who is infirm or suffering from a physical or psychiatric deficiency, is not able to exercise personal freedom even on occasion and has a limited capacity to understand or resist the crime.

5. Names of those who have been determined by the Independent Commission to have credible evidence of sexual misconduct involving minors and/or vulnerable adults while serving in the Archdiocese of Anchorage. (The names are listed in alphabetical order)

Name of Priest, Religious or Lay Minister	Affiliated Diocese or Religious Order or Community	Status	Assignments while in the Archdiocese of Anchorage	Allegation(s) while serving in the Archdiocese of Anchorage
Stanley Allie	Diocese of Albany, New York After 1969 served within the Archdiocese of Anchorage	Retired 2000, No longer in ministry	<u>Holy Family Cathedral</u> , Anchorage, 1969-1970 <u>St. Bernard</u> , Talkeetna, 1970-1974 <u>St. Benedict</u> , Anchorage, 1974-1984 <u>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</u> , Anchorage, 1984-1990 <u>Sacred Heart</u> , Wasilla, 1990-2000	Sexual misconduct involving a vulnerable adult on or about 1986
Rene Astruc, S.J.	Society of Jesus	Deceased 2002	<u>Jesuit residence</u> , Anchorage, 1971-1996	Sexual misconduct involving a minor 1976 and vulnerable adult
Manuel Castro	Lay employee	Employment ended 2013	<u>St. Mary</u> , Kodiak, 2010-2013	Sexual misconduct involving a vulnerable adult 2011 Sexual misconduct involving minors outside of the Archdiocese of Anchorage
Michael Hornick	Archdiocese of Anchorage	Dismissed from the clerical state 2014	<u>Holy Family Cathedral</u> , Anchorage, as Deacon, 1968 <u>St. Anthony</u> , Anchorage, 1969-1971 <u>St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church</u> , Anchorage, 1978-1981 <u>St. Benedict</u> , Anchorage, 1971-1974 <u>Chancery Office</u> , Anchorage, as Vicar General, 1976-1984 <u>Chancery Office</u> , Anchorage, as Judicial Vicar, 1976-2004 <u>St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church</u> , Anchorage, 2006 <u>Blessed Theodore Romzha</u> , Mission, Wasilla, 2006	Sexual misconduct involving minors and vulnerable adults 1970's – 2000's

James Laudwein, S.J.	Society of Jesus	Returned to his religious order 1995	Chaplaincy Apostolate throughout the Archdiocese, 1982-1995, including: <u>Jesuit Residence</u> , Anchorage <u>Native Ministry</u> , Associate Director <u>UAA Campus Ministry</u> , Director, 1986-1994 <u>Anchorage Jesuit Community</u> , Supervisor <u>Jesuit Volunteer Community</u> , Advisor <u>Brother Francis Shelter</u> , Chaplain <u>Covenant House</u> , Chaplain	Sexual misconduct involving vulnerable adults 1989
Robert Leising, OMI	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate	Returned to his religious community 2016	<u>St. John The Baptist</u> , Homer, 2012- 2016 <u>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</u> , Soldotna, 2012-2016 <u>Our Lady of the Angels</u> , Kenai, 2012-2016 <u>St. Peter the Apostle Mission</u> , Ninilchik, 2012-2016	Sexual misconduct by viewing child pornography 2015
Francis Murphy	Archdiocese of Anchorage 1966-1986 Boston, MA 1986-1996 Cuba, New Mexico 1997-2012	Deceased 2012	<u>Holy Family Cathedral</u> , Anchorage, 1966 <u>St. Mary</u> , Kodiak, 1966 <u>St. Michael</u> , Palmer, 1967 <u>Holy Family Cathedral</u> , Anchorage, 1970-1971 <u>St. Patrick</u> , Anchorage, 1971-1984 <u>St. Benedict</u> , Anchorage, 1984-1985	Sexual misconduct involving minors 1966-1979
Bernard Oosterman, (Beno)	Diocese of Spokane Served in Archdiocese of Anchorage, 1978-1980	Deceased 2011	Preaching throughout the Archdiocese, 1978-1980, including: Talkeetna, Kodiak, Wasilla, Kenai, Palmer, Anchorage, Valdez, Dillingham, Cordova, Seward, Eagle River and Glennallen	Sexual misconduct involving a minor 1978
Gerard Ryan, C.S.Sp.	Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Ireland	Deceased 2019	<u>St. Anthony</u> , Anchorage, 1971-1974 <u>St. Bernard</u> , Talkeetna, 1974-1979 <u>St. Michael</u> , Palmer, 1979-1987 <u>St. Francis Xavier</u> , Valdez, 1987-1988 <u>Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> , Anchorage, 1988-1989	Sexual misconduct involving minors 1971-1972
Robert Wells, C.Ss.R.	Redemptorist Order	Deceased 1992	<u>Our Lady of the Angels</u> , Kenai, 1974-1988 <u>Sacred Heart</u> , Seward and <u>St. John Neumann Mission</u> , Cooper Landing, 1988-1992	Sexual misconduct involving a minor, 1977-1986

6. Names of those who have served in the Archdiocese of Anchorage who have been determined by the Independent Commission to have credible evidence of sexual misconduct involving minors and/or vulnerable adults while serving in another location. (The names are listed in alphabetical order)

Name of Priest, Religious or Lay Minister	Affiliated Diocese or Religious Order or Community	Status	Assignments while in the Archdiocese of Anchorage	Allegation(s) while serving in another Diocese
Francis Cowgill	Diocese of Juneau, 1952-1966 Archdiocese of Anchorage, 1966-2000	Deceased 2000	<u>St. Mary</u> , Kodiak, 1966 <u>St. Andrew</u> , Eagle River, 1967-1968 <u>St. Anthony</u> , Anchorage, 1968-2000	Sexual misconduct involving minors 1956-1964
Tim Crowley	Diocese of Lansing, 1982-2002 Served in the Archdiocese of Anchorage, 1995-2002	Laicized 2015	Assistant to the Archbishop, Anchorage, 1995 – 2002 Resided at <u>Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish</u> , 1995-2002	Sexual misconduct involving a minor 1980's
Angus McDonald	Diocese of Fairbanks, 1965-1972 Anchorage 1972-1973	Deceased 1988	From 1972-1973 served in the following parishes: <u>Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> , Anchorage <u>Holy Family Cathedral</u> , Anchorage <u>St. Patrick</u> , Anchorage <u>St. Benedict</u> , Anchorage	Sexual misconduct involving a Vulnerable Adult 1976
James Murphy	Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts Archdiocese of Anchorage, 1982-1992	Dismissed from the clerical state 2012	<u>Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> , Anchorage, 1982-1987 Resided at <u>St. Patrick Parish</u> , Anchorage, 1987-1991 <u>St. Patrick</u> , Anchorage, 1991 <u>St. Francis Xavier</u> , Valdez, 1992	Sexual misconduct involving minors 1965-1971

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